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Angela Ricketts poses April 9 in Bloomington, Ind., with a screen shot of a message she received from a group claiming to be affiliated with Islamic State.

Michael Conroy/AP

Targeted by trolls

Military wives threatened by Russian hackers posing as ISIS » **Page 6**

In veterans, even mild case of TBI linked to increased risk of dementia

By KAREN KAPLAN
Los Angeles Times

Mild traumatic brain injury might sound like an oxymoron, along the lines of "jumbo shrimp" or "random order." But a new study shows that mild TBIs can have serious consequences for military veterans by raising their risk of dementia.

Researchers who examined the medical records of more than 350,000 Americans who served during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan found that men and women who experienced at least one mild TBI were more than twice as likely as their uninjured peers to develop dementia after they retired from the military.

The finding was published Monday in the

journal JAMA Neurology.

Experts already knew that moderate and severe traumatic brain injuries were linked with an increased risk of dementia and Alzheimer's disease, as well as an earlier onset of these conditions. Whether mild TBIs pose risks as well has been unclear.

SEE TBI ON PAGE 11

DEAMSTIME/TNS



WORLD

Trump decides to exit nuclear deal with Iran

By JOSH LEDERMAN
and CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced Tuesday the U.S. will pull out of the landmark nuclear accord with Iran, dealing a profound blow to U.S. allies and potentially deepening the president's isolation on the world stage.

"The United States does not make empty threats," he said in a televised address.

Trump's decision means Iran's government must now decide whether to follow the U.S. and withdraw or try to salvage what's left of the deal. Iran has offered conflicting statements about what it may do — and the answer may depend on exactly how Trump exits the agreement.

Trump said he would move to re-impose all sanctions on Iran that had been lifted under the 2015 deal, not just the ones facing an immediate deadline. This had become known informally as the "nuclear option" because of the near-certainty that such a move would scuttle the deal.

Supporters of fixing the agreement had hoped Trump would choose a piecemeal approach that could leave more room for him to reverse himself and stay in the deal if he could secure the additional restrictions that European nations tried unsuccessfully to negotiate with him.

Still, the administration planned to allow a grace period of at least three months and possibly up to six months so businesses and governments can wind down operations that will violate the re-imposed U.S. sanctions.

A slower withdrawal process could allow more room for Trump to reverse course later and decide to stay — if he secures the additional restrictions on Iran that European nations tried unsuccessfully to negotiate to prevent him from withdrawing. Indeed, as administration officials briefed congressional leaders about Trump's plans Tuesday, they emphasized that just as with a major Asia trade deal and the Paris climate pact that Trump has abandoned, he



VAHID SALEMI/AP

A woman walks her dog past an anti-U.S. mural painted on the wall of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran, on Tuesday.

remains open to renegotiating a better deal, one person briefed on the talks said.

The agreement, struck in 2015 by the United States, other world powers and Iran, lifted most U.S. and international sanctions against the country. In return, Iran agreed to restrictions on its nuclear program making it impossible to produce a bomb, along with rigorous inspections.

In a burst of last-minute diplomacy, punctuated by a visit by Britain's top diplomat, the deal's European members gave in to many of Trump's demands, according to officials, diplomats and others briefed on the negotiations. Yet they still left convinced he was likely to re-impose sanctions.

Macron was to have a conference call with British Prime Minister Theresa May and German Chancellor Angela Merkel about half an hour before Trump's announcement.

Trump spoke with French President Emmanuel Macron and Chinese leader Xi Jinping about his decision Tuesday. Macron vigorously supports the deal and tried to persuade Trump to stay committed to it during a visit to Washington last month.

The British Foreign Secretary traveled to Washington this week to make a last-minute pitch to the U.S. to remain in the deal, according to a senior British diplomat. The diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the British objective will remain to uphold and maintain the deal.

Hours before the announcement, European countries met to underline their support for the agreement. Senior officials from Britain, France and Germany met in Brussels with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Abbas Araghchi.

If the deal collapses, Iran would be free to resume prohibited enrichment ac-

tivities, while businesses and banks doing business with Iran would have to scramble to extricate themselves or run afoul of the U.S. American officials were dusting off plans for how to sell a pullout to the public and explain its complex financial ramifications, said U.S. officials and others, who weren't authorized to speak ahead of an announcement and requested anonymity.

Building up anticipation, Trump announced on Twitter he would disclose his decision at 2 p.m. at the White House.

In Iran, many were deeply concerned about how Trump's decision could affect the already struggling economy. In Tehran, President Hassan Rouhani sought to calm nerves, smiling as he appeared at a petroleum expo. He didn't name Trump directly, but emphasized that Iran continued to seek "engagement with the world."

"It is possible that we will face some problems for two or three months, but we will pass through this," Rouhani said.

Under the most likely scenario, Trump would allow sanctions on Iran's central bank — intended to target oil exports — to kick back in rather than waiving them once again on Saturday, the next deadline for renewal, said individuals briefed on Trump's deliberations. Then the administration would give those who are doing business with Iran a six-month period to wind down business and avoid breaching those sanctions.

Depending on how Trump sells it — either as an irreversible U.S. pullout or one final chance to save it — the deal could be strengthened during those six months in a last-ditch effort to persuade Trump to change his mind. The first 15 months of Trump's presidency have been filled with many such "last chances" for the Iran deal in which he's nixed the decision for another few months, and then another.

Other U.S. sanctions don't require a decision until later, including those on specific Iranian businesses, sectors and individuals that will snap back into place in July unless Trump signs another waiver.

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MILITARY

SEAL to get Medal of Honor for rescue attempt

By WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

A retired Navy SEAL who led a daring rescue attempt for a stranded teammate up an Afghanistan mountain in 2002 will be awarded the Medal of Honor on May 24, the White House announced Monday.

Retired Master Chief Special Warfare Operator Britt Slabinski, who was then a senior chief, "repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire, as he engaged in a pitched, close-quarters firefight against the cautious and more heavily armed enemy forces," the announcement said.

Slabinski was a team leader assigned to a joint task force, and in the predawn hours of March 4, 2002, he led a reconnaissance

team to an observation area atop a 10,000-foot mountain.

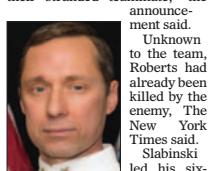
From that snow-covered vantage point, the team was to help support a major coalition offensive against al-Qaida forces in the valley below, the announcement said.

But enemy fighters, hidden in the tree lines and rocks, opened fire with rocket-propelled grenades and rifles as the team arrived by helicopter.

Petty Officer 1st Class Neil Roberts fell out of the helicopter as it hovered about 10 feet above the ground, according to a 2016 New York Times account of the firefight. The aircraft was so badly shot up that it had to return to the valley.

From there, Slabinski "boldly rallied his remaining team and

organized supporting assets for a daring assault back to the mountain peak in an attempt to rescue their stranded teammate," the announcement said.



Slabinski

snow-covered hill in a frontal assault against two enemy bunkers under intense fire coming from three directions.

Radioman John Chapman, an Air Force technical sergeant, was wounded during that assault and later died.

The team was too close to the enemy for air support to be used, and "after several teammates became casualties, the situation became untenable," the announcement said.

Slabinski maneuvered the team to a defensible position, directed airstrikes in very close proximity to the team and requested reinforcements.

As daylight broke, the enemy was able to more accurately pinpoint the locations of Slabinski's team with mortar fire, forcing them to move farther down the sheer mountainside.

Three Army Rangers, an Army

helicopter crewman and an Air Force airman were also killed after arriving as reinforcements, The New York Times said.

Slabinski enlisted in the Navy in 1988 and became a SEAL in 1990, according to the White House. He completed nine overseas deployments and 15 combat deployments in support of the global war on terrorism, including operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Slabinski will be the 15th servicemember to receive the Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan since the U.S. invaded the country in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon.

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Military aviation safety panel urged

By CLAUDIA GRISALES

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., introduced legislation Monday to create an independent National Commission on Military Aviation Safety in response to a series of deadly aircraft crashes in the last year.

The commission would review military aviation mishaps from 2013 and 2018, compare trends with historical data, assess causes fueling the crashes and make recommendations on safety, training, maintenance, personnel and other policies related to military aviation safety, Smith's office said.

"It is time to establish an independent National Commission on Military Aviation Safety so that we can understand exactly what causes are contributing to military aviation accidents, how current rates compare to historic averages and what steps we can take to improve military aviation safety," said Smith, the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee. "It is essential for our aviators and their families — as well as for

our military's ability to recruit, retain and perform its mission — that Congress have an authoritative, objective, apolitical look at the causes of this problem so that we can figure out what is going wrong and what actions need to be taken."

Smith is proposing the legislation be added as an amendment to the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, which directs policy and spending plans for the Defense Department. Discussions of the House Armed Services Committee's NDAA are underway, with a hearing slated Wednesday for the panel to push out its proposal for the defense policy plan.

On Friday, Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, proposed \$639.1 billion in a military base budget, in addition to another \$69 billion for a war chest called the Overseas Contingency Fund. It followed plans unveiled a week earlier by several House panels that laid out the first wave of spending proposals and policies for the next NDAA.

In recent weeks, the House Armed Services Committee, its

subpanels and its Senate counterparts have held dozens of hearings to discuss the 2019 priorities for each of the branches as well as a wide-ranging list of challenges facing the military.

Smith's effort comes on the heels of a crash last week of an Air Force C-130 Hercules used by the Puerto Rico Air National Guard. The cargo plane crashed in Savannah, Ga., killing all nine Guard members on board.

It was the latest in a long string of aircraft mishaps. In the last month, at least seven military aircraft have crashed, leaving 16 servicemembers dead.

Despite the string of fatal aircraft mishaps that have spanned all four branches of the military, Defense Department officials have insisted military aviation is not facing an emergency.

"This is not a crisis," Pentagon press secretary Dana White said last week.

White told reporters at the Pentagon that defense Secretary Jim Mattis is confident the leadership in each of the military services is committed to proper investigations of aviation crashes and implementing changes that those



CHUCK KEARNS, COURTESY OF CHATHAM (GA.) EMERGENCY SERVICES/AP

Firefighters put out a blaze caused by a U.S. military cargo plane crash near the airport in Savannah, Ga., on May 2.

probes determine necessary.

Not all of the recent crashes have obvious links, White said. Nonetheless, she implored lawmakers to ensure full funding of the Pentagon in the future. Several lawmakers have placed the blame for aviation and other fatal mishaps on funding shortfalls in recent years due to sequestration and abbreviated, temporary defense budgets known as continuing resolutions. Pentagon officials have said they were uncertain the

issues were directly linked.

Air Force officials have pledged to determine the cause of the incidents, but they also have noted the service in 2017 recorded near-historic low rates of the most serious aviation mishaps, which cause more than \$2 million in damages or fatally or permanently injure personnel.

Staff reporter Corey Dickstein contributed to this report.
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Reports: US delayed Japanese plan to verify US aircraft safety on Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A plan to send Japanese inspectors to a Marine base on Okinawa in response to a series of aircraft incidents has been put on ice, according to local media reports.

The idea was first floated on Jan. 30 by Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera after emergency landings on the island that month by Marine Corps helicopters. The plan for what U.S. military officials called an "information exchange" was confirmed the next day by U.S. Forces Japan and scheduled to take place on Feb. 1.

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force aircraft maintenance specialists were to visit Marine

Corps Air Station Futenma and be briefed about the AH-1Z Viper and UH-1Y Venom helicopters that made the landings. After verifying that any issues had been rectified, they would report back to Onodera's office, which would then decide if the Marines' explanations made sense from a technical standpoint.

The U.S. side asked to postpone the exchange on the day it was to take place "because they needed more time for preparation," Kyodo News reported, citing an unnamed senior Japanese Defense Ministry official.

"The source said the U.S. military sees the deployment as a form of inspection, as was reported in Japanese media, and is opposed to

a probe of this nature because the helicopters made only precautionary landings to prevent accidents," the Kyodo report said.

Officials with Japan's Ministry of Defense confirmed the visit had not yet taken place when they were reached this week by Stars and Stripes. They declined to comment on what was holding it up as talks continue.

Officials from U.S. Forces Japan did not immediately reply to requests for comment.

Gen. Robert Neller, Marine Corps commandant, told a Washington-based think tank in January that Marine Corps aviation was on the rebound after a "horrible" safety record last year.

Last August, three Marines

were killed when an Okinawa-based MV-22 Osprey crashed off Australia's coast during a training exercise. Two months later, a fire forced a 1st Marine Aircraft Wing F-35B to land in a farmer's field outside Okinawa's Northern Training Area. The aircraft was an almost total loss.

On Dec. 7, a plastic part thought to belong to a U.S. military helicopter was found on the roof of an Okinawa day care facility. On Dec. 13, a CH-53E Super Stallion's window inexplicably became separated from the aircraft and landed on an elementary school sports field adjacent to Futenma's fence line.

To address such problems, Neller said a multipronged approach of increased flight hours

for air crews, the acquisition of new aircraft and a faster turnaround on aircraft maintenance was needed. He said that while the Marine Corps has funding, the military has been hampered by Congress' lack of ability to pass a multiyear budget, which facilitates planning, multiyear contracts and uninterrupted relationships with vendors, especially those that make parts.

Other emergency landings — including one involving an F-35B Lightning II stealth fighter in April — have happened in Japan in recent months, though no injuries or damages have been reported.

Stars and Stripes reporter Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.
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MILITARY

Air Force slashes computer-based required training

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force is eliminating mandatory computer-based training on all but three courses and giving commanders wide discretion in how they conduct most ancillary training, the service's top leaders said in a new memo.

Under the latest guidance, the remaining courses airmen are required to take via computer modules are the Pentagon's Information Assurance Training-Cyber Awareness Challenge, to be performed annually, and several courses related to the Defense Travel System, or DTS. First-time travelers must complete the two-part DTS basic course and personnel must complete a DTS policy module once every three years.

"Effective immediately, commanders and supervisors are empowered to conduct nearly all mandatory ancillary training as they see fit," said the memo signed late last month by Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson, Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein and Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaeth O. Wright.

The move follows Pentagon efforts to streamline required training at the direction of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who has put a focus on renewing the combat effectiveness of the force and reducing obligations unrelated to that goal.

The latest changes are being billed as the second phase of an effort that began in October 2016 aimed at cutting excessive or redundant training unrelated to airmen's primary jobs.

After a review of 42 courses, the earlier phase sought to slash training time by eliminating 15 stand-alone training courses and streamlining 16 others. Nine of the 10 courses airmen identified as most burdensome were cut entirely or in large part.

"Computer-based training will no longer be the primary tool for providing this information unless otherwise directed by law, Department of Defense policy, or a commander entrusted with the mission," the memo said.

The guidance is the second big

change in training requirements for the Air Force in less than a month. A little over two weeks ago, Wright announced that enlisted airmen would no longer be required to complete distance training, known as Course 14 and 15, before attending noncommissioned officer and senior NCO academy resident courses.

That change prompted airmen to post memes on social media expressing their joy and some to praise Wright's leadership.

The Air Force leaders said the latest changes are just the first of many.

"Today, we're taking the next steps," the memo said. "There will be more steps to come."

The Army, too, has recently slashed requirements leaders deemed burdensome.

Last month, the Army secretary and chief of staff ordered the reduction of some training and administrative requirements in an effort to lighten the task load. Commanders were also given greater discretion in how they provide training.

Gen. Robert Abrams, commander of the Army's Force Command, said on Twitter in late April that there would be further reductions in administrative tasks announced weekly.

Over the weekend, some commenters on the Air Force ann/nc/sno Facebook page were skeptical that cutting computer-based coursework would lead to any real change in the training burden, as the courses are still required in some format, such as briefings.

But Courtney Puyear, whose Facebook profile lists him as a crew chief, said the change addresses a problem facing airmen who work in jobs where they're not sitting behind desks and don't have regular access to computers. Waiting to use a limited number of shared workstations can add hours to the work day.

"It's about giving time back to airmen," Puyear said. "If there were a mass briefing it would be scheduled during that person's duty day and not added at the end."

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Courtesy photos

An American military convoy was involved in an accident Tuesday morning near Ingolstadt, Germany. Two soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade were treated and released from a local hospital.

Fuel truck hits US convoy in Germany, 2 soldiers hurt

By MARCUS KLOECKNER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Two U.S. soldiers were treated and released from a local hospital Tuesday after their convoy and a fuel truck collided in a highway pileup about an hour north of Munich, military officials said.

The soldiers were from the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

"Both Soldiers were screened and cleared by the hospital and have been returned to their unit," said Maj. Chris Bradley, the 173rd's spokesman.

Initial reporting from the Army stated at least eight soldiers were injured, but as reports came in through the day the number was reduced, Bradley said. A third soldier from the unit accompanied the soldiers to the hospital along with a police escort, but that soldier was uninjured.

German police said Tuesday afternoon that the accident involved six vehicles and that the truck driver sustained the most serious injuries. None of the soldiers' injuries were considered life-threatening at the scene, police said.



The driver of a fuel truck that collided with an American troop transporter near Ingolstadt, Germany, was seriously injured Tuesday.

One of the vehicles in the military convoy, which was driving near the Bavarian city of Mainburg, had a defect that made the other vehicles slow down, police said.

The 67-year-old driver of a truck carrying about 8,000 gallons of diesel fuel trailed the convoy, failed to slow down in time and crashed into the last vehicle — a troop transporter, police said.

The impact caused the troop

transporter to collide with the Humvees that were leading the convoy.

None of the truck's fuel spilled following the collision, police said.

The accident caused the A93 highway to shut down for several hours. A rescue helicopter was called to the scene to assist in the medical response.

Stars and Stripes reporter John Vandiver contributed to this report. kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com

2 Marines shot during live-fire training

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Marine Corps says two Marines were shot during a live-fire training exercise at a Southern California base involving hundreds of troops.

The military says both were airlifted Sunday from the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

at the Twentynine Palms base to a California hospital.

Second Lt. Samuel Banks said one Marine was released and the other remains hospitalized in serious condition. He said the Marines are stationed at Twentynine Palms. The Marine Corps said in a press release that officials are investigating the incident.

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MILITARY

Fitzgerald officer pleads guilty to dereliction

By DIANNA CAHN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The officer of the deck for the USS Fitzgerald when it collided with a commercial vessel pleaded guilty Tuesday to dereliction of duty in the collision that killed several sailors last year.

Lt. Jg. Sarah Coppock entered the plea during her court-martial at the Washington Navy Yard. Sentencing details were unavailable.

As officer of the deck, Coppock was responsible for ensuring the safe navigation of the USS Fitzgerald when it struck a civilian commercial vessel on June 17, 2017 in heavily trafficked waters off the Japanese coast.

The Fitzgerald's commanding officer, Cmdr. Bryce Benson, was not on deck at the time of the collision. Coppock was charged for failing to "communicate and coordinate with the Combat Information Center, report ship specified contacts to the commanding officer, operate safely in a high density traffic condition and alert crew of imminent collision," according to the charge sheet.

Coppock was charged along with two unnamed junior officers onboard the Fitzgerald. Those sailors — a tactical action officer and a surface warfare coordinator whose jobs focused on overseeing the gathering and communicating of vital information

to the bridge — each face three charges: dereliction in the performance of duties through neglect resulting in death, negligent hazarding of a vessel and negligent homicide. They face a joint Article 32 hearing Wednesday to see whether they will face court-martial.

The tactical information officer is accused of failing in her job to "communicate with the bridge vital contact information and safe speed and maneuvering recommendations, enforce watch-standing principles in the combat information center and support the officer of the deck."

The surface warfare officer is charged with "effectively failing in his duties to supervise those on watch in the USS Fitzgerald Combat Information Center," which monitors the operations of the ships and maintains contact with the bridge and the tactical action officer.

The two lieutenants are charged with negligent homicide for causing the deaths of the seven seaman in their flooded berthing section by "negligently failing to comply with the USS Fitzgerald commanding officer's standing orders" and to effectively ensure the sailors under their oversight carried out their jobs — watch-standing for the tactical information officer.

For the surface warfare officer, the job was "to maintain surface contact situation awareness; provide operational recom-

mendations to the tactical action officer and the bridge; ensure proper watch-standing practices were carried out; and properly stand his assigned station."

The Fitzgerald was navigating out to sea near Yokosuka Port in Japan when it failed to recognize the dangers of three ships heading across its path. The crew was close enough to present risk of collision, according to a U.S. Navy report. Two of the ships maneuvered to avoid a collision — one coming particularly close. The report said Coppock was responsible to alert the commanding officer after that close call. The third, called the ACX Crystal, did not.

Tuesday's court-martial proceeding was the first of several in the coming weeks that will put five officers on the stand for two Japan-based ship collisions in the summer of 2017.

Two months after the deadly Fitzgerald incident, the USS John S. McCain collided with a tanker near the Singapore Straits on Aug. 21. Ten McCain sailors were killed.

The collisions were separate, but both involved Japan-based Navy destroyers. The Navy found that both involved poor seamanship and were the result of compounded errors in which crews lost situational awareness.

Benson is slated for an Article 32 preliminary hearing May 21. He faces charges that include negligent homicide, hazarding

a ship and dereliction of duty.

A date has not been finalized for an Article 32 for the relieved commanding officer of the McCain, Cmdr. Alfredo Sanchez, who is facing similar charges.

Navy reports found that both collisions were "avoidable," caused by poor seamanship and compounded errors.

The Navy has acknowledged that its forward-deployed 7th Fleet in Japan was stretched too thin — undermanned, overworked and exhausted under an intense operational schedule. To meet the high operational demand, training and ship maintenance were deferred, according to a Navy review.

Eighteen sailors faced nonjudicial punishment — 10 on the Fitzgerald and eight on the McCain. That includes the executive officers of both ships and the command master chief of the Fitzgerald, who were found guilty of dereliction in the performance of duties. Each received a letter of punitive reprimand.

Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, who commanded the 7th Fleet, and the two top leaders below him were fired, while the Pacific Fleet commander and the commander of Naval Surface Forces in San Diego retired early — the most senior naval officers to step down in the wake of the tragedies.

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Navy increases number of women aboard submarines

By WILLIAM COLE

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Eight years after the Navy announced a policy change allowing women to serve on submarines, there are 93 women aboard Pacific Fleet vessels, including nine officers on two Virginia-class submarines at Pearl Harbor, the undersea service said.

"The submarine force's women integration efforts in the Pacific to date have gone smoothly," said Cmdr. Corey Barker, spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Fleet Submarine Force. "Looking forward, the intent is to maintain a deliberate process while expanding officer and enlisted integration into the submarine force."

The longer-term Navy goal is to have women make up 20 percent of submarine crews.

Six women are part of the crew of more than 130 on the USS Texas at Pearl Harbor, including the head of the engineering department. Three junior officers are in the engineering department, and a junior officer is in the weapons department.

The USS Mississippi has three women aboard, including a department head who is the navigation operations officer. In late 2015 two women became the first to be assigned to submarine duty in Hawaii on that same vessel.

On the bigger guided missile sub USS Michigan out of Washington state, which has two crews that rotate duties, four female officers and 29 enlisted women are now on the "blue" crew, and six female officers and 29 enlisted are on the "gold" crew, the Navy said.

The Navy in March celebrated



DANIEL HINTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Master Chief Machinist's Mate Dan Kloefer, chief of the boat, speaks to the crew of the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Texas. The Navy has boosted the number of women serving on Pacific Fleet submarines.

Women's History Month, noting that women were part of the sea service as nurses dating to the 1800s. It would take many more years to get aboard combat ships and submarines.

Women arrived on auxiliary ships beginning in 1978 and on combat ships in 1994. In 2016 the Defense Department said it was opening all occupations to women.

Women just want to be "submariners," not "female submariners," The Associated Press said in a March story.

"That'll be a great day when it's not so new that everyone wants to talk about it," Suraya Mattocks,

who was on the guided missile sub USS Michigan out of Washington state, said in what the AP called a "rare interview."

"Females on my crew, they really and truly just want to be seen as submariners. That's it," said the 34-year-old petty officer first class, who was planning to retire from the Navy.

Colorado Springs, Colo., native Lt. Cmdr. Amber Cowan returned to Pearl Harbor in February on the USS Texas after the sub completed a six-month Western Pacific deployment, making port calls in Guam and Sasebo and Yokosuka, Japan. In 2012 Cowan received her submarine "dolphins"

as part of a different vessel.

Cowan was required to qualify as officer of the deck and engineering officer of the watch, perform damage control functions and demonstrate leadership qualities, the Navy said in late 2012.

Pearl Harbor has six newer Virginia-class subs and about a dozen older Los Angeles-class vessels — the greatest concentration of submarines in the Pacific. The current integration plan calls for three to five female officers per Virginia-class crew, and eventually 22 female enlisted per crew, the submarine force's Barker said.

Navy plans seek enlisted women on a future Virginia-class submarine in Hawaii in 2024. Space is tight on any submarine, and especially so on the smaller 360-foot Los Angeles-class. The Navy does not have women on that sub type, which is being retired in favor of the newer Virginias.

Hawaii is the only homeport in the Pacific for Virginia-class subs, which are 377 feet long and have berthing that is modular with three officers per stateroom, making it easier to accommodate women. A timeshare sign is used for bathrooms.

In the Pacific, women also are aboard the biggest submarines in the Navy: 560-foot ballistic missile subs and former ballistic missile "boomers" that were converted to carry commandos and launch up to 154 Tomahawk cruise missiles, all out of Washington state.

Qualification in submarines, an all-volunteer force, was a "personal achievement," Cowan said in a 2012 Navy news release. "Ultimately, it is a monumental mark of the confidence my command

and crew has in me. And earning that respect and acceptance is a feeling that I will hold with me for my entire life."



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MILITARY

A 'mind-blowing' revelation

Military wives targeted by Russian hackers under ISIS flag in 2015

By RAPHAEL SATTNER
Associated Press

Arrmy wife Angela Ricketts was soaking in a bubble bath in her Colorado home, leafing through a memoir, when a message appeared on her iPhone from hackers threatening to slaughter her family.

"Dear Angela!" the Facebook message read. "Bloody Valentine's Day!"

"We know everything about you, your husband and your children," the message continued, claiming that the hackers operating under the flag of Islamic State militants had penetrated her computer and her phone. "We're much closer than you can even imagine."

Ricketts was one of five military wives who received death threats from the self-styled CyberCaliphate on the morning of Feb. 10, 2015. The warnings led to days of anguished media coverage of ISIS militants' online reach.

Except it wasn't ISIS.

The Associated Press has found evidence that the women were targeted not by jihadists but by the same Russian hacking group that intervened in the American election and exposed the emails of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign chairman, John Podesta.

The brazen false flag is a case study in the difficulty of assigning blame in a world where hackers routinely borrow one another's identities to throw investigators off track. The operation's attempt to hype the threat of radical Islam also presaged the inflammatory messages pushed by internet trolls during the U.S. presidential race.

Links between CyberCaliphate and the Russian hackers — typically nicknamed Fancy Bear or APT28 — have been documented previously. On both sides of the Atlantic, the consensus is that the two groups are closely related.

But that consensus never filtered through to the women involved, many of whom were convinced they had been targeted by ISIS sympathizers right up until the AP contacted them.

"Never in a million years did I think that it was the Russians," said Ricketts, an author and advocate for veterans and military families. She called the revelation "mind-blowing."

"It feels so hilarious and insidious at the same time," she said.

'Complete new ground'

As Ricketts scrambled out of the tub to show the threat to her husband, nearly identical messages reached Lori Volkman, a deputy prosecutor based in Oregon who had won fame as a blogger after her husband deployed to the Middle East;



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Angela Ricketts walks her dogs last month in Bloomington, Ind.

Ashley Broadway-Mack, based in the Washington area and head of an association for gay and lesbian military family members; and Amy Bushatz, an Alaska-based journalist who covers spouse and family issues for Military.com.

Liz Snell, the wife of a U.S. Marine, was at her husband's retirement ceremony in California when her phone rang. The Twitter account of her charity, Military Spouses of Strength, had been hacked. It was broadcasting public threats not only to herself and the other spouses but also to their families and then-first lady Michelle Obama.

Snell flew home to Michigan from the ceremony, took her children and checked into a Comfort Inn for two nights.

"Anytime somebody threatens your family, Mama Bear comes out," she said.

The women determined they had all received the same threats. They were also all quoted in a CNN piece about the hacking of a military Twitter feed by CyberCaliphate only a few weeks earlier. In it, they had struck a defiant tone and suspected that CyberCaliphate decided to single them out for retaliation.

"Fear is exactly what — at the time — we perceived ISIS wanted from military families," said Volkman.

Volkman was quoted in half a dozen media outlets; Bushatz wrote an article describing what happened; Ricketts, interviewed as part of a Fox News segment devoted to the menace of radical Islam, told TV host Greta Van Susteren that the

nature of the threat was changing.

"Military families are prepared to deal with violence that's directed toward our soldiers," she said. "But having it directed toward us is just complete new ground."

'We might be surprised'

A few weeks after the spouses were threatened, on April 9, 2015, the signal of French broadcaster TV5 Monde went dead.

The station's network of routers and switches had been knocked out and its internal messaging system disabled. Pasted across the station's website and Facebook page was the keffiyeh-clad logo of CyberCaliphate.

The cyberattack shocked France, coming on the heels of jihadi massacres at the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket that left 17 dead. French leaders decried what they saw as another blow to the country's media. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said evidence suggested the broadcaster was the victim of an act of terrorism.

But Guillaume Poupard, the chief of France's cybersecurity agency, pointedly declined to endorse the minister's comments when quizzed about them the day after the hack.

"We should be very prudent about their origin of the attack," he told French radio. "We might be surprised."

Government experts poring over the station's stricken servers eventually vin-

dicated Poupard's caution, finding evidence they said pointed not to the Middle East but to Moscow.

Speaking to the AP last year, Poupard said the attack "resembles a lot what we call collectively APT28."

Russian officials in Washington and in Moscow did not respond to questions seeking comment. The Kremlin has repeatedly denied masterminding hacks against Western targets.

'The media played into it'

Proof that the military wives were targeted by Russian hackers is laid out in a digital hit list that was provided to the AP by the cybersecurity company Secureworks last year. The AP has previously used the list of 4,700 gmail addresses to outline the group's espionage campaign against journalists, defense contractors and U.S. officials. More recent AP research has found that Fancy Bear, which Secureworks dubs "Iron Twilight," was actively trying to break into the military wives' mailboxes around the time that CyberCaliphate struck.

Lee Foster, a manager with cybersecurity company FireEye, said the repeated overlap between Russian hackers and CyberCaliphate made it all but certain that the groups were linked.

"Just think of your basic probabilities," he said.

CyberCaliphate faded from view after the TV5 Monde hack, but the over-the-top threats issued by the gang of make-believe militants found an echo in the anti-Muslim sentiment whipped up by a St. Petersburg troll farm in Russia — an organization whose operations were laid bare by a U.S. special prosecutor's indictment earlier this year.

The trolls — Russian employees paid to seed American social media with disinformation — often hyped the threat of ISIS militants to the United States. A few months before CyberCaliphate first won attention by hijacking various media organizations' Twitter accounts, for example, the trolls were spreading false rumors about an ISIS attack in Louisiana and a counterfeit video appearing to show an American soldier firing into a Quran.

The AP has found no link between CyberCaliphate and the St. Petersburg trolls, but their aims appeared to be the same: Keep tension at a boil and radical Islam in the headlines.

By that measure, CyberCaliphate's targeting of media outlets like TV5 Monde and the military spouses succeeded handsily.

Ricketts, the author, said that by planting threats with some of the most vocal members of the military community, CyberCaliphate guaranteed maximum press coverage.

"Not only did we play right into their hands by freaking out but the media played right into it," she said. "We reacted in a way that was probably exactly what they were hoping for."

'Never in a million years did I think that it was the Russians. It feels so hilarious and insidious at the same time.'

Angela Ricketts

military wife, author and advocate for veterans and families

NATION

President may bench Giuliani from TV

By JONATHAN LEMIRE

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump is growing increasingly irritated with lawyer Rudy Giuliani's frequently off-message media blitz, which has included muddying the waters on hush money paid to porn actress Stormy Daniels and making claims that could complicate the president's standing in the special counsel's Russia probe.

Trump has begun questioning whether Giuliani, an old friend and former New York City mayor, should be sidelined from television interviews, according to two people familiar with the president's thinking but not authorized to speak publicly about private discussions.

Trump also expressed annoyance that Giuliani's theatrics have breathed new life into the Daniels story. It's a concern shared by Trump allies who think Giuliani is only generating more legal and political trouble for the White House.

Giuliani, the newest addition to the president's legal team, first rattled the White House last week when he sat for interviews on Fox News and seemed to contradict Trump by saying the president was aware of the \$130,000 payout to Daniels from his personal attorney, Michael Cohen. He also suggested the October 2016 settlement had been made because Trump was in the stretch run of his presidential campaign.

After Trump chided Giuliani on Friday, saying the lawyer needed to "get his facts straight," Giuliani put out a statement trying to clarify his remarks. But in weekend interviews, Giuliani appeared to dig himself a deeper hole by acknowledging that "Cohen takes care of situations like this, then gets paid for them sometimes." He did not rule out the possibility that Cohen



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Rudy Giuliani, an attorney for President Donald Trump, applauds as a video is displayed before he speaks at the Iran Freedom Convention for Human Rights & Democracy on Saturday in Washington.

had paid off other women.

Trump, who has denied the affair with Daniels, was angry that Giuliani had given the impression that other women may have made similar charges of infidelity, according to the people familiar with his views. Additionally, Trump has grown agitated in recent days by replays of Giuliani's interview with Sean Hannity, in which he said that Trump knew about the payment but that it wasn't a campaign violation. A clearly surprised Hannity then asked, "Because they funneled it through the law firm?"

To which Giuliani responded, "Funneled it through the law firm, and the president repaid him."

Trump snapped at both men in recent days, chiding Hannity for using the word "funneled," which he believes had illegal connotations, according to the people who spoke to The Associated Press. As for Giuliani, the president's sharp attacks on the Russia investigation and his forceful battles with the press, according to three White House aides and outside allies. The two men have spoken frequently, according to officials familiar with their interactions but not authorized to discuss private conversations.

The president has not publicly discussed dismissing Giuliani and has appreciated his sharp attacks on the Russia investigation and his forceful battles with the press, according to three White House aides and outside allies. The two men have spoken frequently, according to officials familiar with their interactions but not authorized to discuss private conversations.

But many Trump allies both inside and outside the White House have grown anxious in recent days about Giuliani's whirlwind and unpredictable interviews.

"They're admitting to enough that warrants scrutiny. It shouldn't be put on television shows off the cuff," said Alan Dershowitz, the emeritus Harvard law professor who has been informally advising Trump on the Russia collusion probe. "This is not the way to handle a complicated case."

Giuliani did not respond to requests for comment.

West Wing aides were blindsided by Giuliani's TV appearances last week, and many senior advisers and members of the president's legal team have been cut out of the decision-making process. But some aides have been reluctant to broach the subject with Trump because it only increases their liability, according to officials.

Some West Wing aides have complained that Giuliani, who ran for president in 2008, was acting like a "principal" and not a member of a team. Giuliani's remarks have also been watched with concern at the State Department and Pentagon after he weighed in recently on international affairs. He declared last week that North Korea would be releasing three Americans being held captive, which has not yet happened, and said the administration was committed to regime change in Iran, a stance Trump has not taken.

Cooperative approach by Trump on probe done?

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signaled a more confrontational legal strategy against the special counsel's Russia probe on Monday, ripping into what he dismissed as an investigation into a "made up, phony crime."

His series of tweets were fresh evidence that the cooperative approach with special counsel Robert Mueller that had been advocated by the president's legal team for months has gone by the wayside. It also revealed the president's anxiety about how the investigation could sway voters as they decide whether to keep congressional Republicans in power or force him to face an aggressive Democratic majority.

Trump's new lawyer, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, has used media appearances to cast the probe as a "totally garbage investigation." And Giuliani has called into question whether Trump would be treated fairly by Mueller's prosecutors if he were to agree to an interview.

No decision has been made on whether to permit the president to sit for an interview, but a person familiar with the situation but not authorized to speak publicly on it told The Associated Press that the legal team hopes to resolve that question by May 17. Mueller's team is investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election and possible coordination with Trump associates as well as whether the president obstructed justice.

On Monday, Trump seized on Giuliani's message, focusing on what he sees as the conflicts of interest on Mueller's team.

"The 13 Angry Democrats in charge of the Russian Witch Hunt are starting to find out that there is a Court System in place that actually protects people from injustice and just wait 'till the Courts get to see your unrevealed Conflicts of Interest!" he wrote. Mueller is a longtime Republican.

Trump appeared to be drawing attention to a federal judge's questioning last week of Mueller's authority in a case against former campaign chairman Paul Manafort.

Calif. candidate's ad highlights odd incentives of top-2 primary

By JONATHAN J. COOPER

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The California primary is a month away, but Democratic gubernatorial front-runner Gavin Newsom is already slamming Republican rival John Cox.

Or he's helping him.

Newsom, the state's lieutenant governor since 2015, is attacking Cox's support for gun rights, noting "John Cox stands with Donald Trump and the NRA."

It's the kind of message that could benefit Cox as he seeks to consolidate Republican voters behind him instead of rival Travis Allen, a state assemblyman. Neither won the state party's endorsement at last week's convention, but Cox is showing stronger than Allen in polling and has much more money and the backing of prominent California Republicans.

Politics has always made for strange bedfellows, but California's top-two "jungle primary" creates new incentives for odd alliances. All candidates are on the

same ballot in the June primary and the top two, regardless of party, advance to the runoff in November. That means candidates aren't staying in their Republican or Democratic lanes as they would in a traditional primary.

Newsom has been clear he hopes to face a Republican, and the ad allows him to draw an early contrast with Cox while making him more appealing to the Republican party base. Cox, meanwhile, is locked in a struggle for second place with former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, a Democrat.

Cross-party tangling is sure to be on display Tuesday at a debate in San Jose, where the three, along with Allen and two other Democrats, will be on stage together for the last time ahead of the June 5 primary.

While Newsom's ad is the most blatant example, he's not the only candidate to spend time talking about rivals from the other party. Democrat John Chiang's campaign has called Allen "Trump Lite." Allen has attacked Newsom's support for California's "sanctuary state" law, while Cox has

accused all his rivals of benefiting from a political system he calls corrupt.

Polls show Newsom has a decisive lead over a close contest for the second spot. Newsom's road to the governor's mansion — which he's been openly traveling for years — would be easier if his rival comes from the GOP in a state where Democrats far outnumber Republicans.

"This is not about winning the political argument in November," said Ted Kousser, chairman of the political science department at University of California, San Diego. "This is about having the governor's race be over before June 6."

For Republican Party officials, getting a candidate into the runoff has its own benefits — a standard bearer to carry the GOP message in a high-profile race while the party tries to fend off Democratic enthusiasm and hold onto congressional and legislative seats.

Chiang, Villaraigosa and fellow Democrat Delaine Eastin have all been sharply critical of Newsom in their own ways. Villaraigosa has portrayed Newsom as a

candidate focused on wealthy coastal liberals, while Chiang has accused the front-runner of offering unrealistic promises. Eastin is popular with insurgent supporters of Bernie Sanders' presidential bid, who see her as a force to shake up government.

Asked last month which candidate he'd most like to run against, Newsom made his preference clear.

"I wanted to ... say I'm focused on our campaign, but then I'd be misleading you," he told The Associated Press. "We'd like to see a Republican. That's the honest answer."

It's unheard of for the leading candidate from one party to put his finger on the scale and try to pick his general election opponent.

Facing tough election prospects in the 2010 election, Democrats openly rooted for Republicans to nominate far-right supporters of the tea party movement in hotly contested U.S. Senate contests in Nevada and Delaware. The strategy worked; Democrats retained both seats.

NATION

Probe set as NY AG quits over allegations of abuse

By DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Manhattan District Attorney's office is investigating allegations of violence against women by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who resigned just hours after accounts of abuse by four women.

It was a swift and stunning fall for a Democrat who held himself out as a champion of women and a liberal foil to President Donald Trump and who pledged to use his office to hold others accountable for abusing their power.

The women described being slapped and choked, verbally abused and threatened by Schneiderman. Some also described him as a heavy drinker.

The abuse often happened during what were supposed to be romantic encounters, but the women said the violence was not consensual.

Schneiderman, 63, implied in a statement that his conduct was either welcomed by the women or was not as they described.

"In the privacy of intimate relationships, I have engaged in role-

playing and other consensual sexual activity. I have not assaulted anyone. I have never engaged in nonconsensual sex, which is a line I would not cross," he said.

Danny Frost, a spokesman for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr., said in a statement late Monday that prosecutors would look into the claims.

The state's solicitor general, Barbara Underwood, will serve as acting attorney general.

Schneiderman capitulated quickly after fellow Democrats in New York, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo and U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, called for his resignation.

"In the last several hours, serious allegations, which I strongly contest, have been made against me," he said in a statement late Monday. "While these allegations are unrelated to my professional conduct or the operations of the office, they will effectively prevent me from leading the office's work at this critical time."

He said he would resign at the close of business Tuesday.

Two women who spoke to The New Yorker on the record, Michelle Manning Barish and Aysha Selvaratnam, both said the physical abuse escalated over time. The Associated Press is identifying the women because they agreed to tell their stories publicly.

Manning Barish said she was involved with Schneiderman from mid-2013 through the end of 2014. Selvaratnam said she was

involved with him from the summer of 2016 until fall 2017.

Manning Barish said Schneiderman became violent a few weeks after they began dating.

Selvaratnam, who was born in Sri Lanka, said Schneiderman started calling her his "brown slave" and made her say that she was "his property."

"After I found out that other women had been abused by Attorney-General Schneiderman in a similar manner many years before me, I wondered, who's next, and knew something needed to be done," Selvaratnam said in a statement to the AP.

Schneiderman has been a vocal supporter of the #MeToo movement. He filed a lawsuit in February against Harvey Weinstein and the Weinstein Co. following an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct. Schneiderman said the company broke New York law by failing to protect employees from "pervasive sexual harassment, intimidation and discrimination."

He launched a civil rights probe into the New York City-based company in October after The New York Times and The New Yorker exposed allegations of sexual assault and harassment spanning decades. The company later fired Weinstein.

The women accusing Schneiderman said seeing him speak out on those issues in part prompted them to come forward.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP

CIA director nominee Gina Haspel arrives for a meeting with Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday. White House legislative affairs director Marc Short is on the left.

Trump says CIA pick is tough on terrorism

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said the Central Intelligence Agency needs Gina Haspel, his pick to head the agency, to "lead them into America's bright and glorious future!"

On Twitter on Tuesday, Trump reiterated his defense of Haspel as tough on terrorism.

Her nomination has been met with resistance in Congress over her involvement in detaining and brutally interrogating terrorist suspects after 9/11. Her Senate confirmation hearing is scheduled for Wednesday. She would be the first woman to lead the CIA if confirmed by the full Senate.

Trump tweeted that his "highly respected" nominee is being praised for her tough stance on terrorism. "This is a woman who has been a leader wherever she has gone. The CIA wants her to lead them into America's bright and glorious future!" he said.

Haspel tried to convince skeptical Democrats on Monday that she's the right person to lead the spy agency, just two days after she offered to step aside amid heavy criticism of her role in the agency's brutal interrogation program at black sites overseas.

Haspel, who is acting CIA director, had told the White House she didn't want to stay in contention if her bruising confirmation battle this week would jeopardize the agency. But she left no doubt Monday that she's in the fight to stay.

"Looking forward to Wednesday," a smiling Haspel told reporters as she breezed into the office of Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., referring to the upcoming hearing before the Senate intelligence committee.

Haspel is facing opposition from some Democrats and many rights groups who are critical of her activities related to the shredding

of 92 interrogation videotapes in 2005 and her stint as chief of base at a covert detention site in Thailand where two detainees were waterboarded, which simulates drowning.

The CIA on Monday delivered a set of classified documents to give senators a chance to review her record. The agency said the documents, which are not available to the public, cover the entirety of her career, including her time in the years after 9/11.

Using extreme interrogation techniques to pry information from detainees currently is against the law, but some lawmakers worry that Trump will try to reinstate it and will get Haspel to go along. Trump has talked about toughening the U.S. approach to fighting extremists, including waterboarding and a "hell of a lot worse."

In private meetings with senators, Haspel has vowed to stand firm against any effort to restart the harsh interrogations, but it's unclear if that pledge will be enough to reassure wary Democrats.

Without Sen. John McCain, of Arizona, who is battling brain cancer, the Republicans hold a 50-49 majority in the Senate. Nearly all Republicans except Sen. Rand Paul, of Kentucky, are expected to vote for Haspel, but she would need at least one Democrat to be confirmed. Vice President Mike Pence, as president of the Senate, can be called on to break a tie vote.

"She's a professional," said Manchin, who hasn't yet said how he'll vote. "She deserves the right for us to open-mindedly — and in a very open way — listen to her, letting her explain herself and the job that she's done for her country."

\$15B cut in unused funds proposed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is unveiling a multibillion-dollar roster of proposed spending cuts but is leaving this year's \$1.3 trillion catchall spending bill alone.

The cuts wouldn't have much impact, however, since they come from leftover funding from previous years that wouldn't be spent anyway.

The White House said it would seek the so-called rescissions package to lawmakers Tuesday. Administration officials, who required anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter, said the package proposes killing \$15 billion in unused funds.

A senior official said about \$7 billion would come from the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP, which provides health care to kids from low-income families, though that official stressed the cuts won't have a practical impact on the program.

The administration is trying to use its authority to prod Congress to "rescind" spending approved years ago, but even if the package is approved it would have a tiny impact on the government's budget deficit, which is no longer being made. And \$107 billion this year. Some of the cuts wouldn't affect the deficit at all since budget scorekeepers don't give credit for rescinded money that they don't think would have ever been spent.

For instance, more than \$4 billion in cuts to a loan program designed to boost fuel-efficient, advanced-technology vehicles wouldn't result in fewer loans since the loans are more than \$180 million worth of watershed restoration money from

the 2013 Superstorm Sandy aid bill is going unused because local governments aren't stepping up with matching funds.

Another \$252 million is left over from the 2015 fight against Ebola, which has been declared over. Still, the cuts, if enacted by Congress, would take spending authority off the table so it couldn't be tapped by lawmakers for other uses in the future. The catchall spending bill, for instance, contained \$7 billion in cuts to CHIP that were used elsewhere to boost other programs.

"This is money that was never going to be spent," a senior administration official said on a press call ahead of Tuesday's submission. "The only thing it would be used for is offsets down the line."

Pressure from party conservatives to increase cuts in a tentative \$11 billion proposal contributed to a delay from Monday's original release date.

The White House and tea party lawmakers upset by the budget-busting "omnibus" bill have rallied around the plan, aiming to show that Republicans are taking on out-of-control spending. The administration says it will propose cuts to the omnibus measure later in the year.

The idea faces a challenging path in Congress — particularly the Senate, where a 51-49 GOP majority leaves little room for error even though budget rules permit rescissions measures to advance free of the threat of Democratic filibusters.

But the cuts to the popular children's health insurance program probably could still be filibustered because they are so-called mandatory programs rather than annual appropriations.

NATION



MARCO GARCIA/AP

A man films the lava in the Leilani Estates subdivision of Pahoa, Hawaii, on Saturday.

Despite risks, volcano offers affordable piece of paradise

By CALEB JONES
Associated Press

PAHOA, Hawaii — The slopes of Kilauea offer a lush, rural setting and affordable land that contrasts sharply with Hawaii's more expensive real estate, but living on one of the world's most active volcanoes comes with risks. A dozen lava vents have opened in the streets of the Puna district, and 35 structures have burned down.

It was difficult to immediately tell from aerial surveys how many are homes and how many are other uninhabited structures, said Wil Okabe, acting mayor of Hawaii County.

Cheryl Griffith's Leilani Estates subdivision was ordered to evacuate after lava from the Kilauea volcano burst through cracks in the ground, destroying homes. But she did not leave.

As lava crawled down Leilani Road in a hissing, popping mass, Griffith, 61, stood in its path and placed a plant in a crack in the ground as an offering to the Native

Hawaiian volcano goddess, Pele.

"I love this place, and I've been around the volcano for a while," Griffith said. "I'm just not one to rush off."

The Puna district is a region of mostly unpaved roads of volcanic rock about a 30-minute drive from the coastal town of Hilo.

Puna has thick jungle as well as dark fields of lava rock from past eruptions. The gently sloping volcano dips from its summit to Puna's white sand beaches and jagged sea cliffs.

The region has macadamia nut farms and other agriculture, along with multimillion-dollar homes with manicured lawns. Other houses are modest, sitting on small lots with old cars and trucks scattered about.

For many people outside Hawaii, it's hard to understand why anyone would risk living near an active volcano with such destructive power. But the people here are largely self-sufficient and understand the risks of their location.

Amber Makuakane, 37, a teacher and single mother of two, lost her

three-bedroom house to the lava. She grew up here and lived in the house for nine years. Her parents also live in Leilani Estates.

"The volcano and the lava — it's always been a part of my life," she said. "It's devastating ... but I've come to terms with it."

Griffith said that is the hardest part of this lifestyle — they won't be able to recoup losses. Moments later, an explosion came from a nearby burning house.

Homeowners use rainwater-catch tanks and cesspools or septic tanks. Many rely on solar power, and some live entirely off the electrical grid.

Sam Knox, 65, who was born in Hawaii and now lives just a few hundred feet from a volcanic fissure, said he decided not to leave despite the nearby explosions and the lava being hurled into the sky and flowing across his neighbor's property.

"It was roaring sky high. It was incredible. ... Rocks were flying out of the ground," he said. Much of the area filled with lava in just four hours.



COURTESY OF THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY/AP

Figure 4 opens in the forest between Kaupili and Mohala streets on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Kilauea is one of the world's most active volcanoes and has been erupting continuously since 1983. There's no indication when this particular lava flow might stop or how far it might spread. Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey expect the flow to continue until more magma drains from the system.

On Sunday, some of the evacuees were allowed to return briefly to gather medicine, pets and

other necessities. They will be able to do so each day as long as authorities believe it is safe.

Knox has some belongings packed in case he has to make a fast escape.

"I decided to stay because I wanted to experience this in my life," he said. "I'm ready to actually evacuate, but if I don't have to evacuate I'm just going to keep staying here because I don't have no other home to go to."

Microsoft launches \$25M program to use AI for disabilities

By MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

Microsoft is launching a \$25 million initiative to use artificial intelligence to build better technology for people with disabilities.

CEO Satya Nadella announced the new "AI for Accessibility" effort as he kicked off Microsoft's annual conference for software developers. The Build conference in Seattle is meant to foster enthusiasm for the company's latest ventures in cloud computing, artificial intelligence, internet-connected devices and virtual reality.

Microsoft competes with Amazon and Google to offer internet-connected services to businesses and organizations.

The conference and the new initiative offer Microsoft an opportunity to emphasize its philosophy of building AI for social good. The focus could help counter some of the privacy and ethical concerns that have risen over AI and other fast-develop-

ing technology, including the potential that software formulas can perpetuate or even amplify gender and racial biases.

In unusually serious terms for a tech conference keynote, Nadella name-checked the dystopian fiction of George Orwell and Aldous Huxley, declared that "privacy is a human right" and warned of the dangers of building new technology without ethical principles in mind.

"We should be asking not only what computers can do but what computers should do," Nadella said. "That time has come."

The five-year accessibility initiative will include seed grants for startups, nonprofit organizations and academic researchers as well as deeper investments and expertise from Microsoft researchers.

Microsoft President Brad Smith said the company hopes to empower people by accelerating the development of AI tools that provide them with more opportunities for independence and employment.

"It may be an accessibility need relating to vision or deafness or to something like autism or dyslexia,"



Nadella

Smith said in an interview. "There are about a billion people on the planet who have some kind of disability, either permanent or temporary."

Those people already have "huge potential," he said, but "technology can help them accomplish even more."

Microsoft has already experimented with its own accessibility tools, such as a "Seeing AI" free smartphone app using computer vision and narration to help people navigate if they're blind or have low vision. Nadella introduced the app at a previous Build conference.

Microsoft's translation tool also provides

deaf users with real-time captioning of conversations.

"People with disabilities are often overlooked when it comes to technology advances, but Microsoft sees this as a key area to address concerns over the technology and compete against Google, Amazon and IBM," said Nick McQuire, an analyst at CCS Insight.

Other announcements at the Build conference will include partnerships with drone company DJI and chipmaker Qualcomm. More than 6,000 people were registered to attend, most of them developers who build apps for Microsoft's products.

Facebook had its F8 developers' gathering last week. Google's I/O conference began Tuesday; Apple's takes place in early June.

This is the second consecutive year that Microsoft has held its conference in Seattle, not far from its Redmond, Wash., headquarters.

NATION

Sessions: Immigration policy may split families at border

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A “zero-tolerance” policy toward people who enter the United States illegally may cause families to be separated while parents are prosecuted, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Monday.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said it would refer all arrests for illegal entry to federal prosecutors, throwing its weight behind Sessions’ policy announced last month to vastly expand criminal prosecutions of people with few or no previous offenses. A conviction for illegal entry carries a maximum penalty of six months in custody for first-time offenders, though they usually do far less time, and two years for repeat offenders.

“If you cross the border unlawfully, then we will prosecute you. It’s that simple,” Sessions told reporters on a media overlooking the Pacific Ocean, where a border barrier separating San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico, juts out into the ocean.

Nearly one of every four Border Patrol arrests on the Mexican border

der from October through April was someone who came in a family, meaning any large increase in prosecutions is likely to cause parents to be separated from their children while they face charges and do time in jail.

‘If you cross the border unlawfully, then we will prosecute you. It’s that simple.’

Jeff Sessions
U.S. attorney general

Children who are separated from their parents would be put under supervision of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, Sessions said. The department’s Office of Refugee Resettlement releases children to family and places them in shelters.

“We don’t want to separate families, but we don’t want families to come to the border illegally and attempt to enter into this country improperly,” Sessions said. “The

parents are subject to prosecution while children may not be. So, if we do our duty and prosecute those cases, then children inevitably for a period of time might be in different conditions.”

A heckler interrupted Sessions on a megaphone, shouting, “Why are you doing this? Do you have a heart?”

Thomas Homan, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s acting director, said there is no “blanket policy” to separate families as a way to deter others, echoing recent comments by Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen. But he said immigration authorities have long separated families if they have reason to doubt the relationship or if parent is prosecuted.

“Every law enforcement agency in this country separates parents from children when they’re arrested for a crime,” Homan said alongside Sessions. “There is no new policy. This has always been the policy. Now, you will see more prosecutions because of the attorney general’s commitment to zero tolerance.”

Advocacy groups blasted the moves as cruel and heartless, es-



GREGORY BULL/AP

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, at podium, speaks during a news conference near the border with Tijuana, Mexico, on Monday in San Diego, where he discussed immigration enforcement.

pecially in cases where the family is seeking asylum in the United States.

“Criminalizing and stigmatizing parents who are only trying to keep their children from harm and give them a safe upbringing will cause untold damage to thousands of traumatized families who have already given up everything

to flee terrible circumstances in their home countries,” said Erika Guevara-Rosas, Amnesty International’s Americas director.

A sharp increase in prosecutions will strain the court system. Sessions said he has assigned an additional 35 prosecutors and 18 immigration judges to the border regions.

Manning’s bid for Senate is unorthodox

By DAVID MCFADDEN

Associated Press

NORTH BETHESDA, Md. — Chelsea Manning is no longer living as a transgender woman in a male military prison, serving a lengthy sentence for revealing U.S. government secrets. She’s free to grow out her hair, travel the world and spend time with whomever she likes.

But a year since former President Barack Obama commuted Manning’s 35-year sentence, America’s most famous convicted leaker isn’t taking an extended vacation. Far from it: The Oklahoma native has decided to make an unlikely bid for the U.S. Senate in her adopted state of Maryland.

Manning, 30, filed to run in January and has been registered to vote in Maryland since August. She lives in North Bethesda, not far from where she stayed with an aunt while awaiting trial. Her aim is to unseat Sen. Cardin, a 74-year-old Maryland Democrat who is seeking his third Senate term and previously served 10 terms in the U.S. House.

Manning, who also has become an internationally recognized transgender activist, said she’s motivated by a desire to fight what she sees as a shadowy surveillance state and a rising tide of nightmare repression.

“The rise of authoritarianism is encroaching in every aspect of life, whether it’s government or corporate or technological,” Manning told The Associated Press during an interview at her home in an upscale apartment tower.

Manning’s longshot campaign for the June 26 primary would appear to be one of the more unorthodox U.S. Senate bids in recent memory, and the candidate is operating well outside the party’s play-



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Chelsea Manning, right, poses with the Rev. Annie Chambers, a Green Party candidate for Maryland lieutenant governor, at an anti-fracking rally in Baltimore on April 18. Manning is making a bid for the U.S. Senate in Maryland.

book. She says she doesn’t, in fact, even consider herself a Democrat, but is motivated by a desire to shake up establishment Democrats who are “caving in” to President Donald Trump’s administration. She vows she won’t run as an independent if her primary bid fails.

Political analysts suspect the convicted felon is not running to win.

“Manning is running as a protest candidate, which has a long lineage in American history, to shine light on American empire,” said Daniel Schlozman, a political science professor at Johns Hopkins University. “That’s a very different goal, with a very different campaign, than if she wanted to beat Ben Cardin.”

In Maryland, a blue state that’s home to tens of thousands of federal employees and defense contractors, it appears Manning’s main supporters are independents or anti-politics, making them unlikely to coalesce politically. She recently reported contributions of \$72,000 on this year’s first quarterly finance statement, compared with Cardin’s \$336,000.

Committee probing opioid abuse targets distributors

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional investigators say wholesale pharmaceutical distributors shipped hundreds of millions of prescription opioid pills to West Virginia, a state disproportionately ravaged by deaths caused by the addictive drugs. Lawmakers want executives of those companies to explain how that happened.

Current and former officials from five distributor companies were scheduled to give sworn testimony on the subject to a House subcommittee Tuesday. Their appearances come during an election-year push by Congress to pass largely modest legislation aimed at curbing a growing epidemic that saw nearly 64,000 people die last year from drug overdoses, with two-thirds of those deaths involving opioids.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee began investigating the distribution of prescription opioids last May. The panel has said distributors sent more than 780 million pills of hydrocodone and oxycodone — prescription pain-killers that have caused many overdose deaths — to West Virginia from 2007 to 2012. That’s an average of more than 400 pills per person over that period in the state, where around 1.8 million people live.

Investigators said 20.8 million opioid pills were shipped from 2006 to 2016 to Williamson,

population 2,900. One pharmacy in Kernit, with around 400 residents, ranked 22nd in the U.S. in the number of hydrocodone pills it received in 2006, according to the investigation.

West Virginia had the nation’s highest drug overdose death rate of 52 per 100,000 in 2016, according to federal figures. Other states with high death rates included Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire, as well as Washington, D.C.

Executives slated to testify included top officials from Cardinal Health Inc., AmerisourceBergen Corp. and McKesson Corp., the nation’s three biggest wholesale drug distributors. The executives were appearing before the Energy and Commerce committee’s oversight and investigations subcommittee.

The government requires distributors of controlled substances to report suspicious drug orders to the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and to deny questionable transactions.

The Trump administration and lawmakers of both parties have been drawing attention to opioids, a range of pain-killing drugs that can be addictive when misused. They include prescription drugs such as hydrocodone, oxycodone and codeine, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl that can be made illegally, and illegal drugs such as heroin.

VETERANS

Vet recalls military service over 3 wars

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — It was the bone-chilling cold that Harry Miller faced as a teenager in the opening days of the Battle of the Bulge the veteran most prominently recalls about a military career that spanned three major wars.

The 90-year-old said he can still feel the frigid air on Dec. 19, 1944, when his 740th Tank Battalion faced down German tanks from the Nazi's elite 1st SS Panzer Division in Belgium — forcing the Germans to retreat after destroying their three lead tanks with a trio of refurbished tanks that the Americans received just hours earlier.

"It was so damn cold — ice and snow on the roads and the tanks would slide around," Miller said Monday. "But we pushed them out of there. That's the highlight of my service — the 740th Tank Battalion. That's my first love."

Miller joined the Army earlier that year at just 15 years old, lying about his age to join the war effort. He went on to serve 10 years in the Army, including a tour during the Korean War as part of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's headquarters staff.

He retired in 1966 as an Air Force senior master sergeant after serving 12 years in that branch, including helping plan bombing campaigns in the Vietnam War.

On Tuesday, Miller spoke at the World War II Memorial in Washington to mark the 73rd Anniversary of the Allied Forces' victory in the European theatre during World War II.

Miller, a Washington resident, described what it was like being in Europe when the war ended there — known as V-E Day — and the short time his unit had to celebrate as it moved into the Baltics to block Denmark from Russian forces, where they were an ally in defeating Germany.

Orphaned at age 12 in Columbus, Ohio, Miller said he had little to hope for his time in the United States began to emerge from the Great Depression of the 1930s. But he was always impressed by the soldiers from nearby Fort Hays, and they inspired him to enlist.

"Every time they had a parade I'd see these guys, and I always wanted to be among them," Miller said.

He never regretted his decision to enlist.

"I tell people in the military to stay in for as long as you possibly can," he said Monday. "For me, I retired 52 years ago and I've never once, not for a moment, been sorry about my time in the military."

Miller remained in Europe through 1948 when he was sent



Photos courtesy of the National World War II Memorial

Harry Miller, shown above in the 1940s and below in more recent times, served during World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He spoke at a V-E Day ceremony Tuesday at the National World War II Memorial in Washington.



to Japan and eventually to Korea as a communications specialist for MacArthur, the top commander of U.N. forces defending South Korea.

Unlike in Europe, Miller's job kept him away from the front lines for the most part. After completing his tour with MacArthur's staff during the first year of the war, the soldier tried twice more to get orders back to Korea, but that was not to be.

After completing his second enlistment in 1954, Miller enlisted in the Air Force, where he would eventually be assigned to the communications staff for Strategic Air Command, the service's headquarters that controlled its nuclear capabilities.

While Miller never served in Vietnam, he helped planned communications and cryptography for bombers during the war.

On Tuesday, Miller was joined by about 50 other veterans of World War II and placed a wreath at the World War II Memorial's Freedom Wall to honor the more than 400,000 Americans and 60 million people killed worldwide during that war, the deadliest military conflict in human history.

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Panel sends VA Choice bill to House for vote

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers on Tuesday advanced major reforms for the Department of Veterans Affairs that include an extensive overhaul of the agency's private-sector care programs — a deal delayed by intense negotiations for more than a year.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs voted 20-2 to send the legislation to the full House. The bill, titled the VA Mission Act, would alter eligibility criteria for veterans to access private-sector health care, extend benefits for veteran caregivers and initiate a review of VA infrastructure, among other changes. The bill would cost \$51 billion for five years, according to preliminary estimates from the Congressional Budget Office.

The vote marked the first significant step forward for long-debated changes to the VA Choice program, which was created after the VA wait-time scandal in 2014 to ease demand on VA services. The program faces funding challenges, and rules governing who is eligible to access private-sector doctors through Choice are considered by many people to be bureaucratic and restrictive.

The bill has the support of the VA, the White House and major veterans organizations.

"I think this is a once-in-a-lifetime, transformational bill," said Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., the committee chairman.

Democrats on the committee balked because some of their provisions failed to make it into the final draft of the bill. Republicans shot down several amendments that Democrats offered Tuesday.

Rep. Tim Walz, of Minnesota, the ranking Democrat on the committee, was concerned about poten-

tial funding issues for the VA's private-sector care programs. He was one of the Democrats to vote against the measure.

"Put simply, the VA Mission Act, a policy designed to create a permanent solution for VA community care, lacks a sustainable source of funding to ensure that care is provided and protected in the long term," Walz said following the hearing.

Roe agreed Tuesday that the "time for negotiations has come and gone."

"It's a really good bill," he said. "Is it everything I want? No. We did this so we could get a four-corners agreement and get it to the president's desk and get the uncertainty done with."

VA Acting Secretary Robert Wilkie sent a letter to lawmakers Monday calling on them to quickly pass the legislation because of another looming funding shortfall in the VA Choice program. He warned lawmakers that the program would run out of money as early as May 31. Once the funds run out, veterans won't be able to secure private-sector appointments through the program.

The Mission Act includes \$5.2 billion for the VA Choice program, intended to keep it running until May 2019 when new rules for private-sector care would be implemented.

Leaders of 38 veterans organizations signed a letter of support for the bill Monday, calling it a "balanced approach" to handling private and VA health care.

Roe intends to have the bill named after Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and retired Rep. Sam Johnson, R-Texas, to honor their military and civil service. Both men were prisoners of war in Vietnam.

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TBI: Study focused on link between veterans of Iraq and Afghan wars and dementia risk

FROM FRONT PAGE

The question is important because 15 to 20 percent of veterans who participated in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom had at least one mild TBI, typically through exposure to a shock wave that follows an explosion. Suffering multiple mild TBIs was not uncommon.

A team led by Deborah Barnes, a researcher with the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Health Care System and the University of California at San Francisco, hoped to gain some insight by casting a very wide net.

The team members scoured two large government databases to identify every patient treated by the Veterans Health Administration who was diagnosed with any kind of TBI during a 13-year period between 2001 and 2014. They found 178,779 such patients. For 10 percent of those veterans, the most severe instance of traumatic brain injury was a mild TBI without any loss of consciousness. Another 13 percent had a mild TBI that did cause them to lose consciousness for no more than 30 minutes.

In addition, nearly 31 percent of the veterans were diagnosed with mild TBI but their medical

records did not say whether they had lost consciousness as a result.

The remaining 46 percent of veterans had a TBI that was classified as moderate or severe.

All of these patients were matched with another veteran who was treated by the VHA but did not have a TBI. These 178,779 patients served as controls.

In the control group, 2.6 percent of veterans went on to be diagnosed with dementia. So were 6.1 percent of the veterans with a history of TBI.

The more serious a veteran's brain injury, the greater the risk that he or she would subsequently develop dementia.

After accounting for factors like age, medical history and psychiatric conditions that could affect the results, the researchers found that those who experienced a mild TBI without losing consciousness were 2.36 times more likely to develop dementia during the study period than those in the control group.

The risk of dementia was 2.51 times greater for veterans with mild TBI who did lose consciousness for a short period of time, and it was 3.19 times greater for veterans with mild TBI whose records didn't indicate whether they

had lost consciousness or not.

Barnes and her team also calculated that veterans with moderate or severe TBI were nearly four times more likely than their uninjured peers to develop dementia during the study period. That was consistent with previous studies, they wrote.

On average, the time between entering the study and being diagnosed with dementia was 3.6 years for those who had suffered a TBI, compared with 4.8 years for those who hadn't.

It's not entirely clear why the damage caused by a traumatic brain injury would make someone more susceptible to dementia, the study authors noted. Perhaps the inflammation and loss of white matter that follow a TBI create a more fertile environment for the amyloid beta plaques and neurofibrillary tangles associated with dementia, they wrote.

The researchers cautioned that their findings might not apply to the public at large, since their study was based solely on military veterans who had served since 2001. Even so, they wrote, the results strengthen the case that mild TBIs can have serious consequences.

NATION

NRA names controversial veteran as next president

By LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Retired Lt. Col. Oliver North's appointment as the next president of the National Rifle Association gives some star power to the gun lobby but also inspires disdain by gun control advocates who call it a tone-deaf move that shows an unwillingness to find solutions to gun violence.

North, long a popular speaker before the NRA and other conservative groups, is being appointed at a time when the nation is roiled in debate about gun laws following several high-profile mass shootings that have tested the public's support for the Second Amendment.

North, 74, the Marine at the center of the Iran-Contra scandal in the 1980s and a darling of the right, will be the biggest celebrity

to lead the 5-million-member gun lobby since Hollywood legend man Charlton Heston, who famously declared in 2000 that "his guns would have to be taken 'from my cold, dead hands.'"

"Oliver North is a legendary warrior for American freedom, a gifted communicator and skilled leader," NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre said.

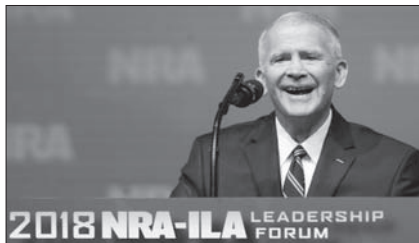
Momentum for gun control has been building since the mass shooting in Las Vegas last fall that killed 58 people and the Feb. 14 rampage at a Parkland, Fla., high school that left 17 dead.

North was picked Monday by the NRA's board of directors, which elects a president every two years. He's expected to assume office within the next several weeks. North succeeds Pete Brownell, who did not seek a second term.

LaPierre remains as vice president and chief executive, running the powerful group's day-to-day operations. North will lead the board, and NRA observers say they anticipate he will take on a more public role in the style of Heston, a fiery presence who used his acting background to energize members.

North was a military aide to the National Security Council during the Reagan administration in the 1980s when he emerged into the spotlight for his role in arranging the secret sale of weapons to Iran and the diversion of the proceeds to the anti-communist Contra rebels in Nicaragua.

He was convicted in 1989 of obstructing Congress during its investigation, destroying government documents and accepting an illegal gratuity. Those convictions



Sue Osores/AP

The National Rifle Association of America announced Monday that former U.S. Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North will be its next president.

were overturned in 1991.

With his crisp military bearing and teary-eyed testimony before Congress, North came to be regarded as an earnest American patriot by many on the right, and he went on to run for office, write several books and serve as a commentator on Fox News.

North's appointment was hailed by gun rights supporters who consider him a warrior who will vigorously battle efforts to restrict access to firearms. Gun control advocates called his appointment

symptomatic of an NRA tone-deaf and unwilling to seek solutions to gun violence.

Said Avery Gardiner, co-president of the Brady Campaign, "For an organization so concerned with law and order, picking a new leader who admitted that he lied to Congress is a truly remarkable decision."

The gun lobby, Gardiner said, "will be led by a man whose own concealed carry permit was revoked because he was 'not of good character.'"

Calif. judge backs call for warnings about coffee

By BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A court ruling that gave coffee drinkers a jolt earlier this year was finalized Monday when a Los Angeles judge said coffee sold in California must carry cancer warnings.

Superior Court Judge Elhlu Berle said Starbucks Corp. and other roasters and retailers failed to show that benefits from drinking coffee outweighed any risks from a carcinogen that is a by-product of the roasting process. He had tentatively made the same written decision in March.

A nonprofit group sued about 90 coffee companies, including Keurig Green Mountain Inc. and Peet's Operating Co. Inc., under a state law that requires warnings on products and in places where chemicals that can cause cancer are present.

The coffee industry did not deny that the chemical acrylamide was found in coffee. But they argued it was at harmless levels and their product should be exempt from the law because the chemical results naturally from cooking necessary for flavor.

The final ruling clears the way for the Council for Education and Research on Toxics to seek a permanent injunction that would either lead to ominous warning labels or a commitment by the industry to remove the chemical from their product — as the potato chip industry did years ago when sued by the same group.

Attorney Raphael Metzger, who represents the nonprofit, said he



RICHARD VOGEL/AP

Signs warning coffee drinkers of the dangers of acrylamide, a chemical byproduct of the roasting process, could become the norm in California after a ruling Monday from Los Angeles Superior Court.

hopes mediation will lead to some settlement of the case that has been brewing for eight years. If no agreement is reached, another phase of trial would determine civil penalties as high as \$2,500 per person exposed each day since the suit was filed in 2010.

Berle had ruled about two years ago against the industry's best defense before issuing the tentative decision March 29 that rejected a

secondary defense.

At the time, the coffee industry said it was considering all options, including appeals. It said that cancer warnings would be misleading and said numerous studies have shown health benefits of drinking coffee.

The industry and lawyers in the case did not immediately reply to an email seeking comment sent after business hours.

Mass. court exempts MIT death in ruling on student suicides

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

BOSTON — Schools can be held liable for student suicides in certain circumstances, Massachusetts' highest court said Monday in a ruling that also cleared the Massachusetts Institute of Technology of responsibility for the death of a graduate student who killed himself on campus in 2009.

The Supreme Judicial Court said MIT cannot be blamed for the death of Han Nguyen, 25, who jumped from the top of a campus building minutes after a professor confronted him about an offensive email.

But it found that schools can be liable if they fail to act after they become aware that a student has attempted suicide while enrolled, or shortly before entering, or learn that the student had threatened to commit suicide.

Gary Pavela, a consultant on law and policy issues in higher education, said he's unaware of another state appellate court that has explicitly found legal questions surrounding student suicides.

"This will be very newsworthy to colleges around the country," said Pavela, who has written a book about the legal questions surrounding student suicides.

Jeffrey Beeler, an attorney for Nguyen's estate, said they were disappointed the court sided with MIT, but believe its ruling will nonetheless "save student lives going forward."

An MIT spokeswoman said in a

statement that Nguyen's death was a tragedy and students' well-being is of "paramount importance to the school." Spokeswoman Kimberly Allen said the school already offers a "robust network" of services for students and "continually considers ways to enhance those resources."

The court noted that Nguyen never told anyone at MIT that he planned to kill himself or tried to kill himself while enrolled at the school. Furthermore, he was living off campus instead of in a dormitory under "daily observation," the court said.

But the judges said schools must take "reasonable measures" to help students they know have attempted suicide while at the school or have threatened to kill themselves. That would include initiating a suicide prevention protocol, getting the student in the care of a medical professional, or contacting police, fire or emergency medical personnel.

A group of 18 colleges and universities, including Harvard University and Boston College — told the court that holding MIT responsible for Nguyen's death would have far-reaching consequences by causing officials with no medical expertise to overreact to concerns out of fear of liability.

'This will be very newsworthy to colleges around the country.'

Gary Pavela
consultant on law and policy issues in higher education



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WORLD

Kim makes another visit to China

N. Korean leader says he wants to talk to Trump about mutual nuclear issues

The Washington Post

TOKYO — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wants to talk to President Donald Trump about “phased and synchronous measures” to deal with their nuclear standoff, Chinese state media reported Tuesday after Kim made his second visit to China in as many months.

This wording, coupled with Kim's desire to “eventually achieve denuclearization and lasting peace on the peninsula,” will ring alarm bells in Washington as it reinforces suspicions that the North Korean leader will ask Trump to take simultaneous steps to reduce tensions.

Kim is expected to meet Trump sometime in the next month for what would be the first meeting between a sitting American president and a North Korean leader.

There is a considerable amount of skepticism among analysts that Kim, having tried so hard to get a credible nuclear weapons program, is about to give it all up — certainly not without extracting major concessions from the United States. That could include lessening the American military presence in South Korea.

Kim made the remarks during a two-day visit to the Chinese city of Dalian, not far from the North Korean border, where he met with President Xi Jinping, Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday night. His younger sister and close aide, Kim Yo Jong, could be seen at the meetings with him.



Ju Peng, XINHUA NEWS AGENCY/AP

Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, walks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a meeting in Dalian, in northeastern China's Liaoning province, sometime between Monday and Tuesday.

“Xi held talks with Kim and hosted a welcome banquet for him. Together, they also took a stroll and attended a luncheon,” the state news agency reported, noting that the meeting took place in a “cordial and friendly atmosphere.”

During their talks, Xi noted that Kim has recently made active efforts to promote dialogue and that current diplomatic efforts were “conducive to a political solution,” Xinhua reported.

Xi was reportedly in the north-

eastern city to attend a ceremony marking the test-launch of China's first entirely domestically produced aircraft carrier.

Shortly afterward, North Korea's most authoritative news anchor, Ri Chun Hee, took to the country's airwaves to announce the visit. Her appearance — she delivers only the most important news — underscores the emphasis that the Kim regime is putting on the current efforts at détente.

The news of another visit, complete with photos of Kim and Xi walking in the sunshine and looking relaxed on an outdoor deck, highlights the Chinese desire to be right in the middle of the current burst of diplomacy surrounding North Korea.

For his part, Kim could be trying to improve ties with Xi — which have been frosty, to put it mildly — in case his outreach to Trump falls flat, analysts say.

Trump tweeted Tuesday morning Washington time that he would soon be talking to his “friend” Xi. “The primary topics will be Trade, where good things will happen, and North Korea, where relationships and trust are building,” he tweeted.

As with Kim's train trip to Beijing in March, speculation had been rife ahead of the announcement that he had traveled to Dalian after citizens reported tightened security and traffic controls. Then, Kim's personal jet and another plane belonging to North Korea's state airline were spotted at an airport near the city.

Germany arrests 3 in people-trafficking ring

BERLIN — Hundreds of police have raided premises in four German states as part of a probe into a suspected people-smuggling ring.

Federal police said the gang is suspected of helping mostly Moldovans enter Germany and work there illegally, using fake Romanian identity documents. In a statement Tuesday, police said 800 officers searched 21 offices and homes in Hamburg and Bremen, Lower Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt states.

Police said three main suspects — two Germans and a Russian — were arrested in Hamburg late Monday. The gang, comprising at least eight people, also includes Ukrainians. At least 35 illegal immigrants were found at premises in Hamburg.

Crime down in Germany; citizens still feel unsafe

BERLIN — German security authorities say statistics show a significant drop in crime last year, a finding that runs counter to many people's perceptions that the country is less safe.

Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said Tuesday that overall offenses dropped by nearly 10 percent in 2017 compared with the previous year. Meanwhile, the proportion of crimes that were solved rose.

He said that “despite all the challenges, the clear fact is that Germany is more secure — though that's no reason to give the all-clear. There's still a lot to do.”

Greek restaurant owner arrested over artifacts

ATHENS, Greece — A man in northwestern Greece has been arrested after artifacts going back hundreds and even thousands of years were found adorning his restaurant.

Police said they confiscated about 90 mostly fragmentary pots and jars that archaeologists identified as ancient Greek and late medieval.

The artifacts, which were on display in the restaurant in the seaside town of Parga, appeared to have been fished out of the water, probably from old shipwrecks.

The owner, 32, was arrested Monday under Greece's cultural heritage laws. All antiquities found in Greece are by law state property.

Protest leader becomes new PM of Armenia

YEREVAN, Armenia — The leader of protests that gripped Armenia for weeks was named the country's new prime minister Tuesday, overcoming the immediate political turmoil but raising uncertainty about the longer term.

The parliament's approval of Nikol Pashinian by a 59-42 vote capped a fast-moving month of massive protests, the surprise resignation of the prime minister and political maneuvering.

Many Armenians have stewed for years about the country's poverty and widespread corruption.

From The Associated Press

Feral dog packs kill 6 children in India

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India — Roaming packs of feral dogs have killed six children in the last week in north India, terrifying villagers who have begun keeping their children home from school and killing any dogs they encounter. At least two dozen more children have been injured.

The killings have occurred in and around the town of Sitapur, said senior police officer Anand Kulkarni. Many of the attacks occurred when children were out gathering mangoes or when they left their homes to use outhouse toilets, he said. Many homes in the area lack indoor plumbing.

Twelve children between the ages of 5 and 12 have been killed in dog attacks in the area since November, officials say.

It was not clear how many dogs were involved in the attacks, but India has millions of strays that wander the streets in even the most exclusive neighborhoods. The feral dogs often survive on

leftover food set in alleys for them but also face relentless cruelty by people and regularly fight other dogs over territory. While injuries from dog attacks are fairly common, a string of fatalities in one area is rare.

Some in the area believe the attacks began after a nearby illegal slaughterhouse was closed, making the dogs more aggressive after they were left without a major source of food.

Villagers say the dog packs are terrifying.

Rajendra Kumar, a farmer near Sitapur, said he was working in his fields when a girl came running toward him. “She was shouting, ‘It killed her!’” said Kumar. “Around two dozen of us ran toward the mango grove with large sticks, iron rods and shovels.” There, he said, they found a half-dozen dogs tearing into the corpse of a girl named Gita, 7. She had gone with two other children to pick mangoes, which are coming into season in north India.

Education officials say some schools have seen a significant drop in attendance because of the



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/AP

A stray dog looks for food in a plastic carry bag in Lucknow in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, on Monday.

attacks. Parents have been told to accompany their children to and from school.

The recent deaths included three children killed by a pack of strays on May 1, Kulkarni said. Two more children were killed on Friday.

Sitapur magistrate Harshdeo Pandey said villagers have been told not to allow their children to use outhouses on their own.

“Public announcements have been made in villages regarding this,” he said. “We also suggest that children should not be allowed to go out to play for a few

days, until all these dogs are caught.”

Villagers have been shooting and strangling stray dogs, believing they have no choice.

“The administration does not care about the plight of the people,” said Sitapur resident Pankaj Singh Gaur.

Four teams of dog-catchers have captured 24 dogs in recent days, said district magistrate Sheetal Verma. But she acknowledged the menace is not over.

Sitapur is about 50 miles from Lucknow, the capital of India's Uttar Pradesh state.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Raccoon family drops through ceiling of home

MI SHERIDAN TOWNSHIP — A family of raccoons created a chaotic scene when they fell through a ceiling and into the living room of a Michigan home.

The Jackson Citizen Patriot reported a homeowner in Sheridan Township sought help Friday after the raccoons fell from an attic.

Police and firefighters easily picked up the four baby raccoons, but the mother eluded capture. She bit a responder's gloves before hiding in a closet.

Police said in a statement that a dog catcher pole was used to collar the raccoon. The raccoons were released into the wild.

Girl, 3, is found safe following carjacking

TX SAN ANTONIO — Authorities said a 3-year-old girl who was inside her family's vehicle when it was stolen near San Antonio has been found safe.

Bexar County sheriff's officials said the child's mother was unloading groceries in the driveway of their home when the car was stolen around 3 a.m. Monday.

The girl was inside the vehicle. Authorities said the girl was found about 20 minutes later in front of a house about 4 miles away.

Emergency medical workers were dispatched to the home. Investigators said they determined the child hadn't been physically injured. Authorities are still looking for the stolen vehicle and the suspect.

School apologizes for pushy graduation usher

FL GAINESVILLE — The University of Florida is apologizing to students who complained that an usher was aggressively pushing and grabbing them as they entered the stage during a graduation ceremony.

University of Florida President W. Kent Fuchs said on Twitter on Sunday the usher was "inappropriately aggressive in rushing students across the stage."

The Gainesville Sun reported that Oliver Tetusma, 21, said the usher reached under his shirt, pushed him up and turned him around when he started to dance onto the stage. Tetusma said he and other black students wanted to "stroll" across the stage, which is a tradition among historically black fraternities and sororities, and that the usher seemed to be targeting them.

Fuchs said the school has changed its practice for ushering graduating students.

Officials working on plan to fund pay phone

WA VERLOT — A Washington community with little to no cellphone service is fighting to keep a nearby pay phone that has been removed briefly last year.

The Daily Herald reported Snohomish County and the U.S. Forest Service are working on a plan to put the phone in the ranger station in Verlot.

THE CENSUS

900

The number of marijuana plants discovered by authorities while investigating a pickup that had crashed into a California home. While looking for possible casualties from the collision Sunday, deputies with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department found the plants at varying stages of cultivation inside the Apple Valley residence. Information on any suspects or arrests was not immediately disclosed. It was unknown how many occupants were in the vehicle.



ANDY ABEYTA, (DAVENPORT, IOWA) QUAD CITY TIMES/AP

Fun in the flood

Queen Howard, 5, left, and her sister, Nesse, 4, of Moline, Iowa, play together Sunday in shallow floodwaters behind Modern Woodmen Park as their father fishes on the Mississippi riverfront in Davenport, Iowa.

The phone allows residents and visitors to make emergency calls.

Forest Service Verlot corridor manager Erica Keene said the new funding plan should be final in the coming months. The Forest Service will purchase the phone, and the county will pay for monthly service. The total cost is likely to be hundreds of dollars.

Lobster fishing ban to save whales extended

MA MARSHFIELD — Massachusetts officials have extended a ban on lobster fishing along Cape Cod Bay because critically endangered right whales are feeding in the area.

The Patriot Ledger reported that the state Division of Marine Fisheries announced lobstermen won't be able to set their traps until May 16, two weeks later than usual.

The state says surveys have found up to 100 right whales are still in western Cape Cod Bay.

Lobstermen have faced a three-month ban on setting their traps since 2015 as part of an effort to lower the amount of whales that get caught in fishing gear during their migration.

Woman cited over blown-up urine sample

CO DENVER — A Colorado woman was cited by police after a container of what appeared to be urine blew up as she was heating it in a microwave at a 7-Eleven.

Police said the incident occurred in the convenience store chain's Aurora location last week when the clerk heard a loud bang and saw Angelique Sanchez, 26, take a white, plastic bottle out of the microwave.

A police report says that when confronted by the clerk, Sanchez wiped a yellow liquid that smelled like urine onto the floor and walked out.

Police located Sanchez at a nearby clinic, where she had planned to take a urinalysis test for a potential employer. The Denver woman was issued a summons for damaged property.

Patrol uses drug dogs more with black drivers

OH COLUMBUS — Records show the Ohio State Highway Patrol uses drug-sniffing dogs on stops involving

black drivers at a higher rate than stops involving whites.

Patrol data show blacks made up 28 percent of the nearly 17,000 stops in which dogs were used from 2013 to 2017, although blacks make up about 13 percent of the population.

The patrol said dog usage is based not on race but on "criminal indicators" such as the origin and destination of trips, visible contents in cars and statements by occupants.

The issue arose recently when a federal appeals court questioned the patrol's traffic stop of a black driver on the Ohio Turnpike.

Cops: Man uses real gun to return paintball fire

IL AURORA — A suburban Chicago man shot at with a paintball gun faces charges on suspicion of shooting back with a real gun.

An Aurora police statement says someone shot a paintball from a car at Aurora resident Malcolm Wheeler, 25, as he walked his dog on May 2. The statement says he ran to grab a gun and tracked the car he believed was involved.

Police said Wheeler shot once at the car, grazing the 18-year-

old driver's head. Another man in the car drove him to a hospital, where he was treated for a non-life-threatening injury.

Wheeler was to appear at a bond hearing in DuPage County Court on charges of aggravated battery with a firearm and aggravated discharge of a firearm.

Zoo visitors will get to pet sharks, stingrays

MO KANSAS CITY — Visitors to the Kansas City Zoo will get a chance to pet sharks and stingrays starting later this month.

The Kansas City Star reported the new \$3.5 million Stingray Bay officially opens May 18. It features 20 cownose rays, eight southern stingrays and 12 white-spotted bamboo sharks. Eventually, the public will be able to feed them chunks of fish.

Zoo officials said at a preview event Tuesday that they wouldn't take chances with public safety. The rays' stingers near the base of the tail have been snipped off. The removal is harmless to the animals, which face no predators in the zoo exhibit.

From wire reports

FACES

THE DARK SIDE OF PARENTING

Writer Diablo Cody didn't intend for 'Tully' to be 'Juno' sequel, but it seems that way

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
The Washington Post

Who is Brook Busey-Maurio, and what did she do with Diablo Cody?

The distinctive pen name of the Oscar-winning screenwriter of "Juno" is never mentioned during a phone interview with the writer, who introduces herself by her legal name. (Born Brook Busey, Cody has been married to the actor and producer Dan Maura since 2009.)

The tattooed wunderkind burst onto the movie scene 11 years ago with the tale of a smack-talking pregnant teenager — and a résumé that included a stint as a stripper. Now 39 and the mother of three young boys, Cody is making the interview rounds to discuss "Tully," her third collaboration with "Juno" director Jason Reitman and the duo's second film starring Charlize Theron (the first was "Young Adult," in which the actress played an immature 30-something).

In the new movie, Theron plays Marlo, a 40-ish mother of two who decides, after the birth of her third child, to hire a "night nanny":

a child-care worker who watches the baby while the parents sleep, waking Mommy only for periodic feedings.

Written 2½ years ago, in what Cody describes as a "postpartum fog," the movie arose out of the writer's personal experience. After shunning what Cody calls the "ridiculous, bougie, L.A. concept" of a night nanny, she gave in after her third child, explaining that "with three boys under

Diablo Cody



the age of 5, I had truly bitten off more than I could chew." Mackenzie Davis plays the 23-year-old title character, a hipster with the skills of a lactation expert and sleep coach who becomes, over the course of the film, Marlo's best friend and mentor, ultimately leading her on a path to reconnect — dangerously — with her lost youth.

We spoke with Cody about the movie's semi-autobiographical aspects, and its darker themes.



Photos by Focus Features

Mackenzie Davis, left, plays a nanny hired by Charlize Theron, right, in "Tully," written by Diablo Cody. It's now in theaters.

How does this movie fit into the continuum of your work with Jason Reitman, which seem to share a theme of growing up, perhaps reluctantly?

It's funny; we didn't really realize that these three films were of a piece until "Tully" was finished. Then it became shockingly obvious to us that we had somehow unwittingly made this coherent trilogy. I think it's because I'm obsessed with the idea of transformation. I'm really interested in exploring how we stay connected to who we once were. ... In "Tully," I was exploring the same thing in the bar scene, where Tully brings up the riddle of the ship: If you slowly replace every board in a ship — one by one — at the end, do you still have the old ship — repaired — or a brand-new ship? I feel, as an adult, like a new ship. I feel like every board in me has been replaced. And yet somehow, I am the same person I was in kindergarten.

There is this sense that, when we lose some aspect of our former selves — when we age — we have somehow become less than we were before. But isn't the growth process a feature, rather than a glitch, of being human?

In a lot of ways, I do feel like my 40-year-old self is a massive improvement over my 25-year-old self. But society and pop culture are telling me otherwise. I'm aging out of important demographics. I'm not "hot" anymore. It's interesting; I feel like I'm being rejected by society when I have more to offer than I ever have.

You paint a picture of harried parenthood and a sexless marriage. Isn't that a little cliché?

The reason I have images of parenthood being difficult and of mature marriages being unexciting is that it's reality for most people. It's a cliché for a reason. I do feel that this movie does something that perhaps other representations of exhausted parenthood do not do. I always feel that there's almost this sitcom approach to showing the difficulties of parenthood. It's like one of those coffee mugs that says, "Mommy needs wine." You're supposed to laugh at it. But we went to a darker place here. It's not "Mommy needs wine." It's "Mommy might kill herself." I think we went somewhere familiar, and then dug a trench under that familiar thing and went straight down.

Do you see "Tully" as connected in any way to your Showtime series "The United States of Tara," which is also, in a different way, about the strains of motherhood?

They're thematically the same. There are so many hats that we're expected to wear as adults: Be a good parent, a good partner, a good employee, a good provider — fit, healthy, sexy. It's exhausting. Sometimes, you wish you had an army of stand-ins to help you achieve those things. It used to be just about survival. Now it's also about "Do you have a six-pack ab?" I don't have time for that s---.

Sizemore sued over groping claim

A Utah woman who filed a lawsuit Monday accusing actor Tom Sizemore of groping her when she was 11 said she is standing up for other child actors.

Kiersten Pyke, 26, spoke for the first time Monday at her attorney's office in Salt Lake City about six months after her allegations against Sizemore surfaced. Pyke said her dreams of having an acting career evaporated after the 2003 incident during production of the "Born Killers" movie, leaving her with post-traumatic stress and drug and alcohol addiction that have plagued her life.

She and her attorney Robert Sykes said they don't think Sizemore will be able to pay the \$3 million in damages they are seeking because his career has spluttered, but the lawsuit is about sending a message.

"It's not OK with children," Pyke said. "Whatever comes from it, it's not for me at this point. ... There are children out there who may watch this and, like I did, will say something to their mommies or their daddies." Sizemore denied the "highly disturbing" allegation when it surfaced last year.

Other news

■ Fired "Transparent" actor Jeffrey Tambor says the show is difficult to work with, on the set, but rejects allegations of sexual misconduct. Tambor says in an interview with the Hollywood Reporter he yelled at people on the set, including series creator Jill Soloway, and was tactless. Tambor says his behavior stemmed from worry that he would fall short in his portrayal of a transgender woman. But he denies the sexual misconduct claims that led to his firing.

■ A third installment of the "Sherlock Holmes" franchise is coming in December 2018. Warner Bros. Pictures said Monday that Robert Downey Jr. will reprise his role as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's detective alongside Jude Law as Watson.

■ The Kennedy Center has voted to rescind two of its biggest honors it awarded Bill Cosby — the Kennedy Center Honors (in 1998) and the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor (in 2009).

From The Associated Press

Rapper urges fans to retire #FreeMeekMill, focus on justice reform

By NICK VADALA
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Philly rapper Meek Mill hopes to shift attention from his personal story to justice reform overall, as he told NBC's Lester Holt in "Dreams and Nightmares: The Meek Mill Story," a "Dateline" special that aired on Sunday — Mill's 31st birthday.

"At this point, it's not all about me having the light to shine on my situation," Mill told Holt about 18 hours after being released from prison on bail last month. "It's about the thousands of others that's caught up in that situation. Let's continue; let's retire the free Meek Mill hashtag and make it hashtag justice reform."

The special focuses on Mill's decade-old

legal drama, which started in 2008 after the rapper was convicted of gun and drug offenses. Last year, Judge Genece Brinkley



Mill

controversially sentenced Mill, real name Robert Rihmke Williams, to two to four years in prison for probation violations in connection with his conviction.

Following his imprisonment, supporters, including NBA team co-owner Michael Rubin, rallied around the rapper under a #FreeMeekMill hashtag.

Mill ultimately was freed on bail following an order from the Pennsylvania Supreme Court last month due in part to

"credibility issues" with Mill's arresting officer. Brinkley granted a hearing in June to discuss a new trial for Mill's case prior to his release last month, but had declined to release the rapper on bail.

Now, as Rubin told Dateline, he believes Mill can leverage the attention his case has gotten to affect a larger change, similar to the #MeToo movement.

"If I think about how much the world has changed as a result of the Me Too Movement, I think Meek Mill will be to criminal justice reform in a lot of ways, what's happened with the Me Too Movement," Rubin said. "So I think he's going to shine a giant light on this incredible problem that we have. And I think he's going to help to make it significantly better."

Mill told Holt following his release that he doesn't yet feel free.

"I ain't feel free since I caught this case at the age of 19," he said. "Me, I just pray. I believe God is my first lawyer; I've always believed that. I don't feel free at all."

Currently, the rapper is at work in an untitled, six-part docuseries with Amazon Studios. The series, which will also focus on Mill's legal saga, is scheduled for 2019 release. Mill said he hopes to use his story to inspire others in similar situations.

"This is the same thing that thousands of other minorities are going through on a daily basis," he said. "They just don't have the platform to have anybody speak out on their behalf. Now they do. At this point, I feel like I'm a sacrifice for a better cause."

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

China's exports bounce back; trade surplus with US grows

By KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

HONG KONG — China's exports rebounded in April and its politically sensitive monthly trade surplus with the United States grew for the first time in five months at a time of escalating friction between Beijing and Washington over the imbalance.

Data released Tuesday show exports jumped 21.5 percent from the same month the year before, bouncing back from a contraction the previous month thanks to resurgent global demand.

Imports expanded 12.9 percent year-on-year in dollar terms, leaving the country's global trade surplus for the month at \$28.8 billion, a turnaround from a \$5 billion deficit the month before.

China's trade surplus with the U.S. swelled to \$22.2 billion, up from \$15.4 in March and the first increase since November, as exports to the U.S. grew at a double-digit pace.

U.S. officials traveled to Beijing last week for talks on resolving the dispute between the world's two biggest economies. Those meetings appear to have made little progress, but further discussions are scheduled to resume next week.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's top economic adviser, Liu He, who headed the Chinese side during

the Beijing talks, is expected to visit Washington for those meetings, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said Monday.

"We are working on something that we think will be great for everybody," she told reporters.

China's trade surplus with the U.S. totaled \$80.4 billion in January-April, up from \$50 billion in the same period last year. President Donald Trump's demands that China slash its surplus with the U.S. have become a cornerstone of his combative economic policy.

Among the list of hard-line demands that Trump's delegation handed China last week was an ultimatum to cut \$200 billion from its annual trade surplus with the U.S. by 2020. Last year's merchandise trade surplus totaled \$375 billion, according to U.S. data, while Chinese statistics put it at about \$276 billion.

After last week's meeting, China's Commerce Ministry said the two sides had agreed to establish a mechanism to try to resolve their dispute, though differences remained.

Trump has threatened to increase tariffs on \$150 billion in Chinese imports. China's communist leaders have countered by outlining \$50 billion in U.S. goods that they would target with retaliatory duties on goods including aircraft and soybeans.

Google to showcase AI advances at conference

Associated Press

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — Google is likely to again put artificial intelligence in the spotlight at its annual developers conference Thursday.

The company's digital concierge, known only as the Google Assistant, could gain new abilities to handle tasks such as making restaurant reservations without human hand-holding.

Google may also unveil updates to its Android mobile operating system, enable better AI-powered navigation suggestions in Google Maps and push further into augmented reality technology, which overlays a view of the real world with digital images.

The search giant aims to make its assistant so useful that people can't live without it—or the search results that drive its advertising business. But it also wants to play up the social benefits of AI, and plans to showcase how it's being used to improve health care, preserve the environment and make scientific discoveries.

CEO Sundar Pichai probably won't emphasize privacy or data security concerns, which have put companies like Facebook, Twitter and Google in the cross-

hairs of regulators. But Google could also give parents new tools to manage how children access video and other material on different devices.

The company is also expected to unveil a new app for news that combines elements of its Google Play Newsstand app and YouTube.

Last week, Google said its partner Lenovo will sell a \$400 stand-alone virtual reality headset that doesn't require inserting a smartphone.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 9)	\$1.2197
Dollar buys (May 9)	€0.8189
British pound (May 9)	£1.39
Japanese yen (May 9)	¥107.00
South Korean won (May 9)	₩1,051.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	£1.3501
Canada (Dollar)	1.2966
China (Yuan)	6.3694
Denmark (Krone)	6.2869
Egypt (Pound)	17.6507
Euro	\$1.1847/0.8441
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8489
Hungary (Forint)	265.96
Israel (Sheqel)	3.6044
Japan (Yen)	109.25
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3016
Norway (Krone)	8.1327
Philippines (Peso)	51.92
Poland (Zloty)	3.62
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3408
South Korea (Won)	1,081.08
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0037
Thailand (Baht)	31.97
Turkey (New Lira)	4.2963

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates (U.S. purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.69
3-month bill	1.84
30-year bond	3.12

Nestle makes deal on Starbucks' retail sales

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Nestle is paying more than \$7 billion to handle global retail sales of Starbucks' coffee, tea and food outside of its coffee shops.

The deal comes with a huge price tag for Nestle, but it could pay off big for the Swiss company. Its Nescafe and Nespresso don't carry anywhere near the left in America that Starbucks brand does with its \$2 billion in annual sales.

The deal gives Nestle the rights to market, sell and distribute Starbucks, Seattle's Best Coffee, Starbucks Reserve, Teavana, Starbucks VIA and Torrefazione Italia packaged coffee and tea. It will also be able to put the Starbucks brand on Nestle single-serve capsules. The agreement excludes bottled drinks such as ice coffees and Frappuccinos that are sold in and outside of Starbucks stores.

Nestle had hinted last year

that it was looking at focusing on higher-growth areas such as pet care, coffee and infant nutrition. In January it announced it was selling its U.S. candy business to Italy's Ferrero for approximately \$2.8 billion.

Nestle announced Monday that Starbucks Corp. will receive \$7.15 billion in an up-front cash payment.

The deal is subject to regulatory approval and is expected to close by the end of the year.

MARKET WATCH

May 7, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	94.81
	24,357.32
Nasdaq composite	55.60
	7,265.21
Standard & Poor's 500	9.21
	2,672.63
Russell 2000	13.35
	1,578.95

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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OPINION

Fuel efficiency standards a smokescreen

By CHARLES LANE
The Washington Post

In the course of providing benefits for individuals, such as making a car go, gasoline consumption also imposes costs on society, such as traffic congestion and air pollution.

Economists call these "negative externalities." In Europe, governments address them by imposing a stiff tax on fuel; Germany gives motorists \$3.29 per gallon. The higher price gives motorists something to think about each time they visit a filling station or buy a new car.

In the United States, we have the lowest national gas tax in the industrialized world, 18.4 cents per gallon — and the federal Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards, first imposed in 1975 as a response to the 1973 global oil crisis.

Those regulations set the fuel efficiency target for each car model according to this easy-to-use formula:

Target (mpg) = 1/Min [Max (c* footprint+d,1,a)/b], where a is the function's upper limit (in mpg), c is line's slope, and d is an intercept added for correct scaling (as Georgetown University economist Ark Levinson helpfully summarizes it.)

There's a huge kerfuffle at the moment over Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt's decision to suspend the scheduled tightening of the CAFE standards — initiated during the Obama administration — which would have required new vehicles, on average, to get the equivalent of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025, as compared with the 24.7 mpg cars on the road actually got in 2016. Environmentalists are decrying the potential impact on the climate, and some state governments, led by California, are seeking a court order to block Pruitt's move.

Everyone is missing an opportunity to learn the lessons from 43 years of attempting to control automobile fuel consumption through detailed government manipula-

tion of automobile production.

To use more economic jargon, CAFE standards represent a "second-best solution" to gas-powered transportation's negative externalities. The best solution to a substantial, permanent gas tax or other user fee that rises with inflation — would require explaining to the American people that their fuel consumption habits reflect their own decisions and not simply auto industry greed.

The results have been mixed. Per capita transportation energy use actually rose by 13.5 percent in the first 30 years after CAFE went into effect; at present it is hovering roughly at 1975 levels. So, obviously, a case can be made that drivers would have consumed even more without the regulations.

However, CAFE raises the price of new cars, so people drive older, less fuel-efficient vehicles longer. When cars get better mileage, they drive them more often, in effect spending their gas savings on more gas (the "rebound effect").

We are nowhere near European per capita gas consumption levels, let alone the small-cars-and-subways nirvana envisioned by green lawmakers. A 2007 federal audit concluded that goal by authorizing the stiffer CAFE standards imposed under President Barack Obama — which Pruitt has just partially repealed.

Our roads and highways are clogged with pickup trucks and SUVs. In 1975, 20 percent of new vehicles sold were pickups and SUVs; in 2017, the figure was nearly 60 percent. This trend is so powerful that Ford has announced it will soon make only gas-powered pickups and SUVs for the North American market, except the iconic Mustang and the Focus Active. Other companies are doing similar things. Electric cars, nifty but not popular with consumers, provide automakers with a bright green fig leaf.

Again, due to advances in technology, partly forced by CAFE, today's SUV behemoths are gas-sippers relative to their pre-CAFE equivalents.

Yet they use a lot more fuel than sedans and hatchbacks, and their prevalence reflects a little-known unintended consequence of CAFE. As of 2011, CAFE norms added according to each car's "footprint," i.e., the square of its wheelbase. Big-gas footprint cars must meet less ambitious fuel efficiency targets than smaller ones, making their CAFE compliance costs relatively lower as well. The Obama administration did this in the interests of safety; larger cars may offer more protection in collisions. As long as gas is cheap, however, the approach also gives automakers an incentive to sell bigger — and more profitable — vehicles. (Also, U.S. automakers received a small edge over Japanese and Korean exporters, which specialize in smaller vehicles.)

Which brings us to a final economics nostrum: "regulatory capture." When you try to change behavior through regulation, you do not eliminate politics from decision-making. This brings us to a final economics nostrum: "regulatory capture." When you try to change behavior through regulation, you do not eliminate politics from decision-making.

You instead shift them from Congress to the less transparent world of the regulatory agencies, where lawyers and lobbyists, all representing various interest groups, wage endless battle for bureaucratic favor. Sometimes it's not clear who's really won until years later.

And of course when there's an abrupt change at the top, as in the ascension of the petroleum-friendly Pruitt, policy can change abruptly, too. Next comes endless argument before judges over California's objections to the EPA administrator's objections.

So much complexity, so much conflict. Americans would rather go through all of it than face reality, which is simple: We can minimize gas prices or we can maximize environmental protection, but we can't do both.

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post's editorial board.

Dems watch Trump slow from the bleachers

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
Bloomberg View

In 1994, seeking to wrest control of the House from Democrats, Republicans ran on the "Contract With America," a conservative agenda, or at least a set of talking points, to rally their base. In 2018, Democrats head into the midterms running on the contract with Stormy Daniels.

It's not their choice. In fact, the party is percolating with discontent on the ways and means to achieve full employment, higher wages, universal health care, financial regulation and a reversal of the decades-long concentration of wealth and power in an American over-class.

How aggressive the party will be in pursuing those goals remains to be seen. But discussions are under way, and one of the odd offshoots of a manifestly unfit president is that the window of possibility organically expands. Once you've experienced the reality of President Donald Trump, the idea of a universal basic income, let alone universal health care, is far from the most outlandish thing to come along.

The Democratic grassroots are shaking with energy. In a series of special elections across the country, in a range of districts, Democrats have consistently outperformed results in previous elections. Money is flowing to Democrats challenging Republican incumbents, and a new cadre of activists is taking charge of local elections. Most election analysts give the party a good odds, maybe better, of taking back the

House. Control of the Senate could even be contested.

None of this matters, or registers, in public discourse, which is dominated by the various scandals, falsehoods, missteps, cover-ups, stings, and shenanigans, whether paths, threats and random crude exertions of the Trump administration. The Free Beacon features an article by Matthew Continetti headlined "The Media is Killing the Democratic Party." Continetti cites (slightly) rising approval ratings for Trump and a declining preference for congressional reform, and concludes that it is time to reach the conclusion that the Stormy Daniels scandal is sucking the life out of the Democrats' message.

Good for Continetti for dispensing with the conservative trope that the news media spends its time scheming to elect Democrats. But given the scale of corruption and greed that Trump generates — they are the yin and yang of his world — and the threat that this combination poses to the presidency and the nation, the media can hardly look away.

Trump has overwhelmed the news industry, exhausting capacity and journalists alike. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has been the subject of more legitimate corruption stories in the past couple months than eight years of President Barack Obama's Cabinet combined. Pruitt's ethics scandals demand so much attention that reports on his toxic influence on policy are overlooked.

Like everyone else, Democrats in Washington are mostly watching from the

bleachers. Republicans appear to have stopped legislating for the year. They have divided their duties between the Senate, a processing center devoted to the speedy installation of white male conservatives on the federal judiciary, and the House, which is in charge of bolstering the shaky executive in the White House. Democratic leaders can shout, they can plot, but they can't command much attention — regardless of their message. Captives of Trump's chaos, they wait to see if he falls and, if he does, what kind of safety net congressional Republicans provide him.

Political messages, fundraising and field organizing still matter in individual states and districts. (Democrats who resort to casual talk of impeachment are unlikely to be Democrats in tight races.) And the grassroots energy that has powered Democrats in special elections is unlikely to dissipate by the fall. But it's unclear what national message Democrats could muster, or how it would resonate amid the all-encompassing sleaze. That, and whatever conclusions that the special counsel draws about it, will be the context in which every campaign is waged.

Trump gave voters every reason to believe he would be as dishonest and incompetent as he has in fact turned out to be. Yet 63 million signed on to a four-year deal anyway. The terms of that deal are up for renegotiation in November. What Democrats say in the meantime matters. But maybe not much.

Francis Wilkinson writes editorials on politics and U.S. domestic policy for Bloomberg Opinion.

OPINION

Citizenship is the keystone of liberal democracy

By CLIVE CROOK
Bloomberg View

Western democracies aren't working well. Liberal democratic norms are under strain in the U.S. and much of Europe. In other parts of the world, authoritarian governments grow confident and ambitious. As citizens of democratic countries, we can all agree: Restoring the vitality of our systems of government is essential.

One crucial yet neglected part of this task is to understand what we mean by that phrase, "As citizens."

Like much else in Western politics, notions of citizenship have polarized. The space between the poles isn't ideological in the old left-right sense. (At the moment, that kind of ideology seems largely beside the point.) It's based instead on class, culture and geography. Away from the cities, populists care about citizenship to a fault, on a spectrum that runs, at the extreme, to hardline nativism and ethnic bigotry. The urban gentry cares about it hardly at all, to the point, in the U.S., of supporting "sanctuary cities" and frowning on the very term "illegal immigrant."

The subject preoccupies me at the moment, because I'm applying for U.S. citizenship. Telling this to friends and neighbors, I'm struck by the contrast I just mentioned. In my professional circles, it's usually seen as a dull administrative matter. I have a green card, they understand, so it isn't complicated. You fill in some forms, take a little test, swear an oath of some kind, and get a second passport. (Useful thing to have, though it means you'll have to do jury service.) My West Virginia neighbors see it as a really big deal. At the moment I'm British, and I've decided I want to be an American. (Wow.)

On this subject, I share the West Virginian view of the world. I think acquiring U.S. citizenship is a big deal, and I've hesitated over it. I'm uncomfortable with the idea of dual citizenship, something that the U.S. and Britain (unlike Japan and the Netherlands, for instance) tacitly allow. If the U.S. will have me, I'm enough of a pragmatist to keep my British passport for as long as



Gameliel Morais, 3, waves an American flag after his father, Gregg Morais, from Jamaica, was sworn in as an American citizen this month in Woodbine, N.J.

that's allowed, yet principled enough to want to be sure I'd choose the U.S. over the U.K. if ever required to pick — as, in fact, I believe I should be.

In urban settings, this position elicits laughter and a rolling of eyes — not least from my native-born American wife, who also happens to be Canadian and Irish. Sorry, dear: There's something unsatisfactory about pledging loyalty to more than one country. In West Virginia, at least, they understand.

Granted, the urban gentry's discomfort with citizenship is in part both rational and ethically sound. People are people, right? And they don't choose where they're born. Why should the mere accident of starting out in a rich country endow a person with rights denied to others less fortunate? It's a good question. There's no avoiding it. The idea of citizenship does involve blinding oneself to the idea of what used to be called

the brotherhood of man.

This moral blindness can seem especially offensive when it comes to dealing with people who came to the country (or remained here) illegally, but have lived here for many years — as family, or as valued friends, neighbors, co-workers and otherwise law-abiding taxpayers. The more so, of course, if they didn't choose to put themselves in that position. The plight of young people in the U.S. ensnared in the mess called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals shocks the conscience, or ought to.

The U.K.'s Windrush scandal, which has just claimed the head of another member of Theresa May's beleaguered government, is even more egregious. Children who came to Britain from Commonwealth countries before 1971, admitted on their parents' British passports but without documents of their own, have been asked to prove their entitlement to remain in the country and

threatened with removal — 50 years on. Plumbing new depths of bureaucratic cruelty and incompetence, the episode seems to discredit the very idea of citizenship.

The trouble is, that idea is indispensable for liberal democratic government. A radical libertarian is entitled to disagree, but if your view of government, whether conservative or progressive, involves taking from some and giving to others, it requires a measure of social solidarity. The more taking and giving you hope to do — the more progressive your ambitions for national politics — the more solidarity you're likely to require.

Social solidarity has to be about more than merely being there. It involves a sense of mutual obligation — and not just what's required by law. Like citizenship, social solidarity is both inclusive and exclusive. It's inclusive because it binds people together. It's unavoidably exclusive because not everybody gets bound in. As long as national politics is the principal driver of government action, liberal democracies will need citizens who think of themselves as citizens — even if that does entail a degree of moral blindness. The strand of progressivism that favors open borders is founded on a contradiction.

A liberal conception of citizenship recognizes certain universal human rights and the demands of ordinary decency so far as noncitizens are concerned. It understands that people are people, and owe each other something on that account alone. For that reason, it rejects ethno-nationalism and other kinds of racism out of hand. It also understands the benefits that a liberal immigration policy can bring to existing citizens. But it doesn't deny citizens the right to make their judgments. It puts citizens first. It never suggests that citizenship doesn't matter.

The weaker the commitment to citizenship, the worse the prospects for liberal democracy.

Clive Crook is a Bloomberg View columnist and writes editorials on economics, finance and politics. He was chief Washington commentator for the Financial Times, a correspondent and editor for the Economist and a senior editor at the Atlantic.

McCain's not the ideal messenger. He's the ideal message.

By DAVID VON DREHLE
The Washington Post

In a matter of months, maybe weeks, maybe days, the president of the United States will try to speak for the nation on the death of Sen. John McCain. At 81, McCain has been the model of stoic virtue in reckoning with his terminal brain cancer, so this prediction will neither surprise nor offend him. "What is your life?" asks the Book of James, Chapter 4, verse 14. "You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

Because President Donald Trump makes up in shamelessness what he lacks in principles, he should easily find something fulsome to say, or tweet, about this magnificent and maddening patriot. He will likely be brief and vague, though, because he's more comfortable with genuine duplicity than with feigned sincerity. When then-candidate Trump scoffed at McCain's heroism in 2015, "I like people who weren't captured," he said, as if a draft-dodging sybarite could calibrate heroism — we knew we were hearing the real Donald. Whatever seemingly decent thing he says when the time comes will carry the stink of an inauthentic apology.

This is one problem, among many, with choosing a president based on how dis-

gusted the choice will make the losing voters. Our major parties in the last election nominated candidates who were loathed by the other side; polls indicated they were the least-popular standard-bearers in the history of polling. And while this might be an effective way to rev up true believers (hate being a powerful motive), it cripples the survivor's transition from campaign antagonist to voice of the nation. To speak with, and for, the whole country at key moments is a big part of the job, yet for some reason, our modern politics is failing to elevate candidates who can do it well.

I was never sure McCain was such a candidate, though I watched him seek the presidency in 2000 and 2008. He was an interesting campaigner, which is rare, but he wasn't a great one. He resembled a racehorse that loves to surge from back in the pack, closing a length per furlong, yet loses focus if given the lead. Candidate McCain aspired to emulate Ronald Reagan, but Reagan was Secretary; he ran as though he was the only horse on Earth.

Thus the charm of McCain's "Straight Talk Express," the bus he chartered in the winter of 2000 when he was 20 lengths back of George W. Bush and spoiling for an upset. With a skeletal staff serving mostly as straight men, McCain shot the bull with

reporters as the Express crisscrossed New Hampshire. With the cockiness and ease of a former Navy aviator, the shoot-from-the-hip candidate soon had celebrities and news executives clamoring for bus time, and as he narrowed (but never closed) the gap, McCain's delight was infectious.

On the other hand, he blew whatever small chance he had of beating Barack Obama in 2008 when his victory in the primaries caused him to break stride. McCain stumbled with GOP elders by pushing for a Democrat as his running mate. When they vetoed the choice, he impulsively chose the untested and unready Sarah Palin. At the time, I asked a veteran Republican for the backstory. "He didn't get his way so he threw his peas against the wall," came the answer.

But if McCain has proved less than the ideal messenger, he has achieved something larger: He is an ideal message. When the time comes, his whole life story will be recalled, but its essence can be distilled to a single choice.

Shot down over Hanoi in 1967, McCain was taken prisoner with three of his limbs broken, his shoulder crushed and a bayonet wound in his gut. But this was no ordinary prisoner. In the long history of the U.S. Navy, McCain was the first to be both

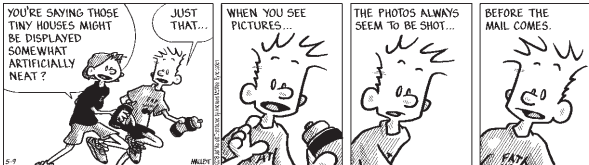
son and grandson of full admirals, and his father was in command of all operations in Vietnam. When his captors learned this, they offered McCain his freedom. He had come to exercise his privilege, look after himself and leave his fellow prisoners behind.

They tortured him nearly to death for refusing, bound his broken arms, beat his unhealed wounds. Decades later, I watched him limp into rallies on a leg that could never be properly repaired and raise his shattered and broken arms week-high — their full extent. And I heard him ask his fellow Americans to trust, as he had trusted through more than five years of available suffering, in duty, service and one another.

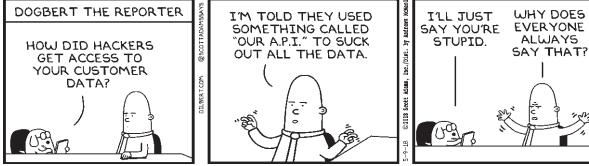
If this life story is premature, the reason for delivering it now is this moment cries out for it. John McCain reminds us that American greatness is made by those who understand that character is the sum of one's hardest choices; that reality is not a TV show; that fame is mist but honor granite; that heroes don't need fixers on retainer.

David Von Drehle writes a twice-weekly column for The Washington Post. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year" and "Triangle: The Fire That Changed America."

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



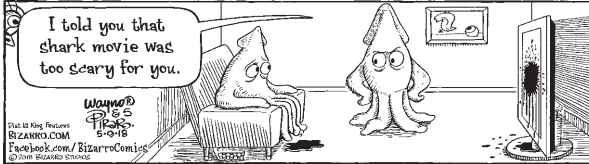
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18								19	20			
		21			22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32
33					34					35		
36					37					38		
			39	40			41		42			
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

ACROSS

- 1 Now, on a memo
- 5 Identify
- 8 Sci-fi fleet
- 12 Hot dog holder
- 13 Flamenco cheer
- 14 Without help
- 15 No-cost infomercial bonus
- 17 Pakistani language
- 18 Shorthand pro
- 19 Salt dispenser
- 21 Horn sound
- 25 Metropolis
- 28 Gospel writer
- 30 Frozen water
- 33 Egg (Pref.)
- 34 Count with an orchestra
- 35 Fragrant tree
- 36 Workout venue
- 37 God of war
- 38 Men-only
- 39 Erie Canal mule
- 41 Actress Ward
- 43 Rookie
- 46 Liniment targets
- 50 La Scala solo
- 51 9-to-5 work period
- 54 Winnow
- 55 Bearded beast

DOWN

- 6 Diminutive suffix
- 57 Initial chip
- 58 Chatter
- 59 Try out
- 23 Stuns, as a perp
- 25 Gearwheel tooth
- 26 Wall climber
- 27 Boy genius of young adult fiction
- 29 Ascend
- 31 Spy org.
- 32 Work unit
- 34 Island near Java
- 38 Potpourri pouch
- 40 Diminish
- 42 Vegas opener
- 43 Houston org.
- 44 Ireland
- 45 Jittery
- 47 Sex educator Shere
- 48 New news
- 49 Undo a dele
- 52 Santa — winds
- 53 "Uh-huh"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	W	A	Y	D	E	B	S	L	A	T
R	O	M	A	E	A	U	T	A	C	H
T	W	O	C	E	N	T	S	A	M	M
			H	R	S	T	E	M	P	E
P	A	S	T	A	S	O	A	P		
E	M	T	S		F	O	U	R	S	T
C	O	Y		P	E	A	R	L	E	M
S	I	X	P	A	C	K	S		P	L
			A	R	K	S		S	U	L
M	A	R	C	E	L	A	C	T		
A	L	A	I		E	I	G	H	T	I
C	O	I	F		S	I	R	E	T	N
H	E	D	Y		S	I	A		R	O

5-9

CRYPTOQUIP

J S U M T U O U V L M W V D L E J L Z
L G O D V W U M B C O R D M S P R
R S U U B G D R O C K U , U T U V Z W D E Z

GLXXR SPK JDDX-TUVUUM.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I LOVE AIR TRAVEL.
AND I'M FINALLY GETTING TO TAKE OFF THIS MORNING. THANK GOD IT'S FLY DAY!
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals R


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Announcements 040

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Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classifieds advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

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Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

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Yard size approx 400 sqm
Additional Storage 80 sqm
2 cars
No fee
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Mobile 0151 - 58573409

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SCHEDULEBOARD

Sports on Air

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College baseball

Monday's scores

East
Penn St.-Brehm 9, 1
Siena 11, Rider 1
Middlebury 7, Saint Peter's 1
Clymouth St. 2, Colgate 1
NYU 10, Stevens Tech 1
South
Florida Tech 13, Barry 10
Shenandoah 3, Penn St.-Harrisburg 1
UNC Greensboro 7, Mercer 1
Midwest
Baldwin-Wallace 7-9, Adrian 5-4
Concordia (Mo.) 3-10, Macalester 1-8
West
Idagewood 17, Belmont 14
St. Thomas (Minn.) at St. Scholastica, con.
Wis.-Oshkosh 5-5, Wis.-Stevens Point 3-3, 1st game in innings
FAR WEST
Concordia-Irvine 8, Biola 5
Point Loma 12, Azusa Pacific 5

TOURNAMENTS Association of Independent Institutions

Georgia Gwinnett 12, Edward Waters 1
Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference
Trinity Christian 6, Judson 1
Crossroads League
Huntington 10, Mount Vernon Nazarene 3
Indiana Wesleyan 8, St. Francis (Ind.) 3

Gulf South Conference

Delta St. 7, North Alabama 5
West Florida 3, Jacksonville 1
Mississippi Coll. 2, West Alabama 1
Montevallo 12, West Georgia 0
Heart of America Athletic Conference
Clarke 6, Grand View 3

Mid-South Conference

Campbellsville 7, Cumberland 2
PSU Athletic Conference
Penn St., Brandywine 4, Penn St., Wilkes-Barre 2

Championship

Penn St., Dubois 1, Penn St., Brandywine 2
Red River Athletic Conference
LSU Shreveport 7, LSU Alexandria 2
Texas A&M-Tearkana 14, Jarvis Christian 7
LSU Alexandria 7, Texas A&M-Tearkana 6

Sun Conference

St. Thomas (Fla.) 11, Webster International 0

AP spotlight

1930 — Gallant Fox, ridden by Earl Sande, won the Preakness Stakes by three-quarters of a length over Crack Brigade. Gallant Fox becomes the only Triple Crown winner to win the Preakness a week before the Kentucky Derby.

1937 — Jockey Walter Warren, who is involved in a rare feat in thoroughbred racing history, riding two horses to dead heat first-place finishes at Sportsman's Park. In the sixth race, Warren rides a horse to a middle finish, while with Pipiad, in the eighth, Warren rides Susan Constant in another dead heat with Three Sands.

1943 — The Gentile of the Baltimore Orioles hits consecutive grand slams in the first and second innings of a 13-0 rout of the Yankees.

1987 — Baltimore's Eddie Murray becomes the first NBA team to lose two home runs from both sides of the plate in the same game as the Orioles beat the Chicago White Sox 15-6 at Comiskey Park.

1993 — The Phoenix Suns beat the Los Angeles Lakers 112-104 in overtime to become the first NBA team to lose two playoff games at home and come back to win three straight.

1999 — Marshall McDougall hits six consecutive homers and knocks in 16 runs, both NCA A records, in Florida State's 26-2 rout of Maryland.

2003 — Jeff Jeffries becomes the first player in NHL playoff history to cap a four-goal game with an overtime score. Jeffries' hat trick gives him the 10th of the extra period to give Anaheim a 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Kings.

2010 — Dallas Braden pitches the 19th perfect game in major league history, a 15-0 performance for the Oakland Athletics in a 4-0 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays.

2011 — The ATP and WTA tennis rankings were fish and Andy Roddick are Nos. 11 and 12, while Serena and Venus Williams were Nos. 17 and 19, respectively.

Pro soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	T	pts	GF	GA
Atlanta United	2	2	2	10	19	14
New York City FC	6	3	0	19	19	14
New York Red Bulls	6	3	0	15	15	10
Columbus	4	3	3	15	13	10
Montreal Impact	3	4	3	12	13	11
Philadelphia	3	6	0	9	14	23
LA Galaxy	2	4	2	8	6	13
Toronto FC	2	4	1	7	9	13
D.C. United	2	4	1	7	9	13

Western Conference

Los Angeles FC	W	L	T	pts	GF	GA
Sporting KC	6	2	2	20	21	12
LA Galaxy	4	4	5	17	18	18
Vancouver	4	5	1	13	10	18
FC Dallas	4	5	1	13	10	18
Minnesota United	4	5	1	13	10	18
Portland	3	5	2	11	18	13
LA Galaxy	3	5	2	11	18	13
Portland	3	5	2	11	18	13
Seattle Sounders	3	5	2	11	18	13
San Jose	2	4	2	8	10	11
Colorado	1	4	2	5	12	19
Seattle	1	4	2	5	12	19

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday, May 4

3. Philadelphia 0, Toronto 2

Saturday, May 5

2. New York City FC 0, Minnesota United 1, Vancouver 0

1. Columbus 0, Seattle 0

1. Houston 3, LA Galaxy 2

1. Sporting Kansas City 2, Colorado 0

1. Portland 1, San Jose 0

Sunday, May 6

1. Orlando City 2, Real Salt Lake 1

1. Philadelphia 0, Toronto 2

1. Sporting Kansas City at Atlanta United

1. Houston at Chicago

1. Minnesota United at Los Angeles FC

1. Montreal at Vancouver

1. Philadelphia at Portland

1. LA Galaxy at FC Dallas

1. Atlanta United at Columbus

1. Toronto FC at New England

1. D.C. United at Real Salt Lake

1. Seattle at Portland

1. Seattle at Portland

1. Atlanta United at Orlando City

1. New York City FC at Los Angeles FC

2018 U.S. Men's schedule

Sunday, Jan. 26 — Lost 0, tie 0, United States 0, Bosnia-Herzegovina 0

Tuesday, March 27 — United States 1, Paraguay 0

Monday, May 28 — vs. Bolivia at Chester, Pa.

Saturday, June 2 — vs. Ireland at Dublin, Ireland

Saturday, June 9 — vs. France at France

Tuesday, Nov. 20 — vs. Italy (tentative)

NWSL

W

North Carolina	W	L	T	pts	GF	GA
Seattle	1	1	1	10	7	6
Portland	2	2	2	8	9	9
Chicago	4	4	1	10	10	10
Utah	1	1	4	7	5	4
Washington	3	2	5	7	10	9
San Diego	3	2	5	7	10	9
White FC	3	2	5	7	10	9

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday, May 5

2. Seattle 3, Portland 2

1. Portland 2, Washington 0

1. Chicago 1, North Carolina 1

Sunday's games

1. Chicago 1, North Carolina 1

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

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1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

1. Washington 0, Portland 2

Golf

World ranking

Through May 7

1. Justin Thomas	USA	9,222
2. Brooks Koepka	USA	8,231
3. Jon Rahm	ESP	8,307
4. Jordan Spieth	USA	8,355
5. Bubba Watson	USA	7,362
6. Rickie Fowler	USA	7,066
7. Matt Kuchar	USA	6,661
8. Rory McIlroy	NIR	6,633
9. Hideki Matsuyama	JPN	6,608
10. Patrick Reed	USA	6,584
11. Brooks Koepka	USA	5,543
12. Paul Casey	ENG	5,543
13. Sergio Garcia	ESP	5,531
14. Tommy Fleetwood	ENG	5,531
15. Henrik Stenson	SWE	5,506
16. Marc Leishman	AUS	4,773
17. Bubba Watson	USA	4,766
18. Alex Norén	SWE	4,673
19. Matt Kuchar	USA	4,673
20. Pat Perez	USA	4,673
20. Tyrrell Hatton	ENG	4,289
21. Matt Kuchar	USA	3,394
22. Kevin Kisner	USA	3,659
23. Brian Harman	USA	3,774
24. Kevin Kisner	USA	3,659
25. Rafael Cabrera Bello	ESP	3,658
26. Ian Poulter	ENG	3,338
27. Satoshi Kojima	JPN	3,336
28. Charley Hoffman	USA	3,333
29. Xander Schauffele	USA	3,330
30. Francesco Molinari	ITA	3,200

Ryder Cup points

The Golf National

Guyancourt, France

Sept. 28-30, 2017

Through May 6

United States	Points
1. Justin Reed	6,687.801
2. Jordan Spieth	6,126.773
3. Dustin Johnson	6,012.732
4. Bubba Watson	5,977.993
5. Rickie Fowler	3,815.197
6. Patrick Reed	3,247.048
7. Brooks Koepka	3,062.985
8. Matt Kuchar	3,062.985
9. Brian Harman	2,420.881
11. Kevin Kisner	2,204.881
12. Xander Schauffele	2,195.444
13. Tony Finau	1,995.444
14. Luke List	1,594.644
15. Sam Wanland	1,594.644

Europe

European points

1. Tyrrell Hatton	3,096.447
2. Paul Casey	1,369.447
3. Jon Rahm	2,088.837
4. Ross Fisher	1,893.814
5. Matthew Fitzpatrick	1,883.317
6. Tommy Fleetwood	1,877.993
7. Rory McIlroy	1,160.118
8. Alexander Lewis	1,137.839
9. Luke List	1,044.281

World Points

1. Justin Reed	265.98
2. Jon Rahm	248.36
3. Tyrrell Hatton	176.17
4. Rory McIlroy	159.39
5. Tommy Fleetwood	145.75
6. Sergio Garcia	140.63
7. Alex Norén	116.31
8. Bubba Watson	109.63
9. Matthew Fitzpatrick	103.62
10. Paul Casey	101.88

Presidents Cup

At Royal Melbourne Golf Club

Melbourne, Australia

Dec. 12-15, 2019

Top 25 automatically qualify

United States

1. Justin Thomas	2,133
2. Phil Mickelson	1,393
3. Jason Day	1,329
4. Patrick Kizzire	1,293
5. Tony Finau	1,293
6. Matt Kuchar	1,293
7. Dustin Johnson	1,253
8. Brooks Koepka	1,253
9. Pat Perez	1,122
10. Patrick Reed	1,085
11. Xander Schauffele	1,085
12. Luke List	1,046
13. Brenden Steele	1,046
14. Bryson DeChambeau	864

International

1. Jason Day	AUS	6,611
2. Hideki Matsuyama	JPN	6,608
3. Marc Leishman	AUS	4,773
4. Hossaini Kooner	IND	4,773
5. Kiradech Aphibarnrat	THA	3,117
6. Louis Oosthuizen	ZAF	3,117
7. Adam Hadwin	GBR	2,800
8. Cameron Smith	AUS	2,800
9. Si Woo Kim	KOR	2,778
10. Adam Hadwin	CAN	2,611
11. Jonny van Marck	GBR	2,611
12. Jonathan Fritelli	SAR	2,311
13. Dionny Fritelli	VEN	2,111
14. Char Schwartzel	SAR	2,111

FedEx Cup leaders

Through May 6

Points	Money
1. Justin Thomas	\$2,588,000
2. Jason Day	\$3,757,166
3. Brooks Koepka	\$3,757,166
4. Patrick Kizzire	\$1,317,988
5. Patrick Reed	\$1,318,952
6. Bubba Watson	\$1,299,586
7. Dustin Johnson	\$1,299,586
8. Louis Oosthuizen	\$1,299,586
9. Tony Finau	\$1,299,586
10. Justin Rose	\$1,299,586
11. Justin Rose	\$1,299,586
12. Andrew Landry	\$1,228,754
13. Justin Rose	\$1,228,754
14. Luke List	\$477,595
15. Brendan Steele	\$477,595

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Signed 2B Jonathan Schoop to Frederick (Carolina) for a rehab assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Sent RHP Tyler Thornburg on a rehab assignment to Round Rock (Texas) to replace Kris Bryant.

TEXAS RANGERS — Recalled Elijer Drew Robinson on the 10-day DL, retroactive to May 4.

TEXAS RANGERS — Recalled RHP Cory Mazzoni from Iowa (PCL), Optioned RHP Luke Farrell to Iowa, Placed RHP Yu Darvish on the 10-day DL, retroactive to May 4.

CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned RHP Shackelford to Louisville (IL), Recalled RHP Jackson Schreiber from Louisville (IL).

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Returned 2B RHP Shaun Kelley from the 10-day DL.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Optioned RHP Nick Kingham to Indianapolis (IL).

NEW YORK GIANTS — Recalled RHP Adam Wainwright to Springfield (FL) for a rehab assignment.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Reinstated LHP Matt Strahm from the 10-day DL, Optioned RHP Kazuhisa Makita to El Paso (PCL), Retired INF Javier Guerra to El Paso.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Signed C Ryan Hanigan to a minor league contract.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Reinstated RHP Keshawna Kelly from the 10-day DL, Optioned OF Rafael Bautista to Syracuse (IL).

SPORTS

Teams' draft luck has Buffalo buzzing

Bills' first-round picks, Sabres winning lottery gives hopes to fans of downtrodden teams

By JOHN WAWRO
Associated Press

The Buffalo Bills were so dull during their lean years, comedian Nick Bakay feared his body would fuse to the couch while watching them play.

"It's an incredibly disturbing image," Bakay said of wasting away Sundays witnessing his hometown team sleepwalk through one loss after another during a 17-season playoff drought that ended last year.

"I never missed a Bills game. But I was always slumped on my couch. I was never sitting forward. I was never jumping to my feet," said Bakay, who wrote "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" and its sequel, and produced and appeared on the TV sitcom "King of Queens." "You sit on your couch, and your couch slowly eats you."

No different for fans of Buffalo's other pro sports franchise, the NHL's Sabres, who finished last for the third time in five years and extended their franchise-worst playoff drought to a seventh season.

In a shot-and-a-beer town where the winters are interminably long, sports provide a ride thing out on the notion of renewal always being just around the corner.

And there's a new, palpable optimism for this hearty fan base, thanks to a three-day stretch which showed potential to alter the trajectory of both teams.

First, the Bills made a pair of splashes in the first round of the NFL Draft on April 26 by trading up to select Wyoming quarterback Josh Allen and Virginia Tech linebacker Tremaine Edmunds.

Two days later, the Sabres won the NHL Draft lottery — something Buffalo lost the previous two times it finished last — and the opportunity to select projected No. 1 pick, Swedish defenseman Rasmus Dahlin.

During the NFL Draft, CBS Evening News anchor Jeff Glor got dirty looks from his wife during a rare dinner date sneaking peeks at the Bills' picks. He then yelped with excitement upon learning the Sabres won the lottery while attending the White House Correspondents' Association dinner in Washington.

"I had just resigned myself to never winning it," Glor said. "But listen, I always have hope."

In Buffalo, there's a fine line between affection and affliction for a long time.

"I always try to keep it in check a little bit," said Glor, who grew up in the Buffalo suburb of Tonawanda. "Unfortunately, you get conditioned to where there are times you can be defeatist. And you try not to be. But you just don't give up."

Fans have little choice but to participate in a place where tied name-worthy moments are tied



MARK BLINCH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Sweden's Rasmus Dahlin skates during the second period of an IIHF world junior hockey championship game against Russia in Buffalo, N.Y., in December. First, the Buffalo Bills made a pair of splashes in the first round of the NFL Draft. Two days later, the Sabres won the NHL Draft lottery — something Buffalo lost the previous two times it finished last — and the opportunity to select projected No. 1 pick, Swedish defenseman Rasmus Dahlin.

to losses.

For the Bills, it's "Wide Right," after kicker Scott Norwood missed a last-second field-goal attempt in a 20-19 loss to the New York Giants in the 1991 Super Bowl — the first of four consecutive Super Bowl losses.

For the Sabres, it's "No Goal," following a 2-1, triple-overtime loss to Dallas in Game 6 of the 1999 Stanley Cup Final. Brett Hull's Cup-clinching goal stood even though replays showed his skate in the crease.

Those were the so-called glory days.

The Bills and Sabres have won five playoff games combined since 2008. By comparison, the NHL's expansion Vegas Golden Knights have already won eight in their first year of existence.

Buffalo joins Nashville and Charlotte, N.C., as the only North American markets with two or more major pro teams to not have won a title.

"I think it builds character in a way. I joke with my friends that one day my kids will have to go through therapy because we are Sabres, Bills and Mets fans," said former VH1-cable TV chef Tom Calderone, who's based in New York City but maintains a home in his native Buffalo. "It's easy to be a Cowboys fan or a Patriots fan. But it takes true dedication to be a Bills or Sabres fan."

Calderone sees more hope reflected in signs of resurgence for the city itself.

The former site of the Erie Canal has been transformed from vacant gravel lots to parkland,



MICHAEL AINSWORTH/AP

Josh Allen, center, takes a selfie with Buffalo Bills fans after being selected by the team during the first round of the NFL Draft. It has never been easy being a sports fan in Buffalo, where losing has been customary. A renewed sense of hope has suddenly arisen after the Bills selected Allen and the Sabres won the NHL draft lottery.

a water park that doubles as an ice rink in winter, and an entertainment/hockey complex built by Bills and Sabres owner Terry Pegula.

Housing prices have tripled

and a medical corridor is newly bustling along Main Street, where shuttered and boarded-up buildings have been renovated or replaced by new steel and glass structures.

Did you know

Buffalo is one of only three, North American markets with two or more major pro teams to not have won a title.

SOURCE: AP

Buffalo still has its rust-belt blemishes as one of the nation's poorest cities. Racial inequities, failing schools and a crumbling infrastructure remain issues.

The Bills and Sabres aren't immune to troubling headlines. Last week, the two teams' president Russ Brandon resigned amid allegations of having inappropriate relationships with female employees.

Buffalo might never regain the industrial-age prominence it held in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the city became a Great Lakes shipping hub as the gateway to the Erie Canal.

Nor, however, should it become the punchline comedian Jon Stewart once delivered during a stop in Buffalo, calling the city the gateway to the Ontario border town of Fort Erie just across the Niagara River — population 30,000.

Watching a documentary on former Bills running back O.J. Simpson, Bakay was reminded of the gloomy times in the 1970s when the steel mills began closing and legions of people left to find jobs.

"It depressed me so much," he said. "Every shot of Buffalo looked like a moose that farted into the sky."

The decline led to Buffalo investing its psyche into its sports teams as a way of remaining part of the national conversation.

"Our teams were the only way we could punch back and say, 'Yeah, we're here,'" Bakay said.

Allen and the prospect of adding Dahlin has recaptured his imagination as to what's possible. "It's like all of a sudden we've got go-big-or-go-home-talent coming our way," Bakay said.

He recalled how the Bills once pinned their hopes on quarterback Trent Edwards, who earned the nickname "Captain Check-down" for being overly cautious.

After years of the Trent Edwards of the world, we get a kid who has that kind of talent," Bakay said.

Maybe, he'll finally be able to get off that couch.

"I don't think we need any kind of help of, 'Can we believe?' We can believe in a bag of doughnuts," Bakay said. "But that weekend was like, 'Oh my god. Things are really happening. Pinch me.'"

NHL PLAYOFFS

Forsberg, Rinne help Predators stay alive

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Filip Forsberg, Pekka Rinne and the Nashville Predators showed they aren't ready for their season to end yet.

Forsberg had two goals and an assist, Rinne stopped 34 shots for his second shut-out of the playoffs, and the Predators beat the Winnipeg Jets 4-0 on Monday to force a decisive Game 7 in their Western Conference semifinal series.

"Desperation," Rinne said after his fifth career playoff shutout. "It just shows that we have a really tight group."

Viktor Arvidsson also scored twice, including a late empty-netter, and added an assist for the Predators. Roman Josi and Ryan Johansen each had two assists.

After the Jets' top line combined for eight points in a 6-2 victory in Game 5 in Nashville to take a 3-2 series lead, the Predators No. 1 trio of Forsberg, Arvidsson and Johansen did the same when it mattered most.

"It's the most fun," Forsberg said. "You can never have more fun than playing these elimination games. ... Just try to enjoy it as much as possible."

Connor Hellebuyck stopped 25 shots for the Jets.

Game 7 in this series in which neither team has won consecutive games is Thursday in Nashville, Tenn., with the winner advancing to face the expansion Vegas Golden

Knights in the Western Conference final. Each team has also won twice on the road.

"It's been back and forth, up and down," Winnipeg head coach Paul Maurice said. "It's probably right that it's going seven."

The Jets finished 0-for-4 on the power play, including three chances in the first period.

"The power play is probably just a microcosm of the way we played," Winnipeg center Paul Stastny said. "We probably weren't moving as well or as sharp as we wanted."

With the Predators up 1-0 after one period, Forsberg doubled the lead at 8:44 of the second on a great solo rush for his sixth of the postseason. After breaking his stick in the defensive zone blocking a shot, the Swedish forward raced to the bench to get a new one as the puck almost simultaneously arrived at his feet. Forsberg stayed inside, fought off Jets defenseman Ben Chiarot and beat Hellebuyck short-side before crashing into the net.

Winnipeg had made an earlier push coming out of the first intermission, with Paul Stastny's shot just wide being the best chance after Mathieu Perreault's dump in hit the linesman and caromed into the slot. Stastny also missed from a tight angle off the boards on the follow up on Rinne.

After Forsberg made it 2-0, Rinne was there to stop Adam Lowry with his pad before just getting a piece of Mark Scheifele's shot on an abbreviated 2-on-1 to keep

Nashville up by two.

The Jets got their fourth power play of the night early in the third, but Scheifele fired wide on the best opportunity.

Forsberg then took a pass from behind the net, played it between his own legs and beat Hellebuyck for his second of the night and seventh of the playoffs at 5:55.

"I don't think there's any question that Fil's a big-game player," Predators coach Peter Laviolette said. "[The second] goal was just good work by his line, but he had to finish it off. Let's be honest, none of us in this room can make that play. ... You've got to give him a lot of credit."

With Hellebuyck pulled for an extra skater, Arvidsson scored into the empty net with 4:02 left to seal Nashville's win.

Nashville took the lead just 62 seconds into the first period to quiet the usual rowdy, white-clad crowd at Bell MTS Place on Arvidsson's fourth. The speedy winger crashed into the end boards after being taken down by Jets defenseman Dustin Byfuglien. Arvidsson briefly complained to the referee before getting back in the slot just in time to make a defensive deflection of a blast from Josi that looked destined to hit him directly in his head as he dropped to the ice.

Referee Wes McCauley initially waved off the goal that bounced past Hellebuyck for high-sticking, but it was determined after video review that Arvidsson's stick



JOHN WOODS, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Predators goalie Pekka Rinne stops a shot from the Jets' Patrik Laine during first period Monday in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Nashville won 4-0.

was below the crossbar on the tip.

The Predators and Jets finished with the two best records during the regular season — Nashville had 117 points to win its first Presidents' Trophy, while Winnipeg was right behind with 114 points.

Finally: Caps relish ousting champ Pens

FROM BACK PAGE

Maybe because — for now anyway — Washington's long-held role as playoff fodder for the Penguins is over. The Capitals beat Pittsburgh in the playoffs for only the second time in 11 tries by playing a disciplined style dictated by Trotz, one that focuses on responsibility at both ends of the ice.

The game-winning sequence began with Kuznetsov poking the puck away from Penguins star Sidney Crosby as Crosby tried to enter the Washington zone. The puck made its way to Ovechkin and he threaded a pass to a sprinting Kuznetsov, who beat Matt Murray to spark a celebration two decades in the making.

"I don't want to lie, it tastes a little bit better (beating the Penguins)," Kuznetsov said. "You know, I never focus on the history. I only focus game by game. It feels very nice. You keep playing hockey, it's unbelievable."

Washington went 1-1-1 against the Lightning in three regular season meetings, the last a 4-2 loss at home on Feb. 20. That was two long months ago, and the team that celebrated in an equal parts joyous and relieved dressing room on Monday night doesn't look like the one that was still searching for its legs in mid-winter.

Injuries forced the Capitals to put together a patchwork lineup that included a handful of rookies,



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

The Capitals' Evgeny Kuznetsov, left, slides the game-winning goal between the pads of Penguins goaltender Matt Murray during overtime on Monday. The Capitals won 2-1 to win the playoff series.

such as Nate Walker, who became the first Australian to record a point in the playoffs when he set up Alex Chiasson's second-period goal.

"We did have our moment in the first period when we said 'Do we have five rookies playing tonight?'" Capitals owner Ted Leonsis said. "I thought our window had closed and we had an old team. So our future remains bright and now we just have to focus on the third round."

Washington will do it with a resurgent Braden Holtby. Benched at the start of the playoffs in favor of Philipp Grubauer, Holtby heads to the conference finals playing some of the finest hockey of his career. He stopped 21 of 22 shots

in Game 6 and is now 8-3 since Trotz put him back in the lineup.

"Obviously everyone knows the difficulties we had getting out of the second round," Holtby said. "But that doesn't make a difference in our main goal. Our main goal is still the Stanley Cup. The third round isn't the Stanley Cup. We have to refocus now. We can enjoy it and use that energy as kind of a recharge for the halfway point and push full force into the next round because it's going to be a hard test."

One the Capitals believe they're finally ready to pass. The franchise has only reached the Cup once, getting swept by Detroit in 1998, long before Ovechkin, Holtby and Leonsis came on board. This is their best chance at

the club, one they're intent on not squandering.

"We set goals every year," Leonsis said. "Make the playoffs. First round. Second round. Third round and win a championship. So we're trying to check them off. It's a little embarrassing that it's taken this long for us to get past it."

Now that they have — at last, becoming the first professional team in the nation's capital to reach a conference final since the '98 Capitals did it — they're eager to shed the past. It's over and done. The future — and the Lightning — await.

"We beat the Pittsburgh Penguins today and they're a hell of a hockey team and we're only halfway," Trotz said. "We haven't done anything yet."

Scoreboard

Conference semifinals

(Best-of-7; x if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Washington 3, Pittsburgh 2

Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2

Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1

Washington 4, Pittsburgh 1

Pittsburgh 3, Washington 1

Washington 6, Pittsburgh 3

Monday: Washington 2, Pittsburgh 1

OT

Tampa Bay 4, Boston 1

Boston 6, Tampa Bay 2

Tampa Bay 4, Boston 2

Tampa Bay 4, Boston 1

Tampa Bay 4, Boston 3, OT

Tampa Bay 3, Boston 2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Winnipeg 3, Nashville 2

Winnipeg 4, Nashville 1

Nashville 5, Winnipeg 4, 2OT

Winnipeg 7, Nashville 4

Nashville 2, Winnipeg 1

Winnipeg 6, Nashville 2

Monday: Nashville 4, Winnipeg 0

Thursday at Nashville

Vegas 4, San Jose 2

Vegas 7, San Jose 0

San Jose 4, Vegas 3, 2OT

Vegas 4, San Jose 3, OT

San Jose 4, Vegas 0

Vegas 5, San Jose 3

Vegas 3, San Jose 0

A-15,321 (18,387), T-2:50.

Monday

Capitals 2, Penguins 1 (OT)

Washington 0 1 0 1-2

Pittsburgh 0 1 0 0-1

Second Period—1, Washington, Chiasson (1 (Goalie, Walker), 2:13, 2, Pittsburgh, Letang (Crosby, Dumoulin), 11:52.

Overtime—3, Washington, Kuznetsov (Crosby, Walker, 6:00), 5:27.

Shots on Goal—Washington 7-8-9-6-30, Pittsburgh 6-0-0-0, 5:27.

Power-play opportunities—Washington 1 of 1; Pittsburgh 0 of 1.

Goalies—Washington, Holtby 8-3 (22 shots-21 saves), Pittsburgh, Murray 6-6 (30-28).

A-15,321 (18,387), T-2:50.

Predators 4, Jets 0

Nashville 1 1 2-4

Winnipeg 0 1 0 0-0

Pittsburgh 0 1 0 0-0

First Period—1, Nashville, Arvidsson (Josi, Johansen), 1:02.

Second Period—1, Nashville, Forsberg (Johansen, Smith), 8:16.

Third Period—3, Nashville, Forsberg (Arvidsson, Josi, 5:25, 4, Nashville, Arvidsson 5 (Forsberg), 15:58.

Shots on Goal—Nashville 10-7-12-29, Winnipeg 10-9-15-34.

Goalies—Nashville, Rinne 7-5 (34 shots-34 saves), Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 7-4 (28-25).

A-15,321 (15,294), T-2:32.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS

Commission: NCAA needs more reform

By Aaron Beard
Associated Press

The Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics supports recent reform proposals to the NCAA amid a federal corruption investigation into college basketball — but wants the NCAA to do more.

The commission suggests changing the NCAA's governance structure and additional financial regulations regarding coaches or school employees receiving outside income from apparel companies. The Knight Commission issued its proposals during its spring meeting Monday in Washington, roughly two weeks after the committee led by former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice issued recommendations to overhaul the NCAA.

"It's an open question if the NCAA can restore public confidence in its ability to be the stewards of big-money college sports," said Arrie Duncan, the commission co-chairman and a former U.S. Secretary of Education. "To do so, it will need to embrace far more sweeping and deep-seated reform than ever before."

The Rice committee's recommendations included ending the "one-and-done" NBA rule, overhauling the enforcement process to handle complex cases of potential rules violations and creating a certification system to regulate agent conduct.

Rice's Commission on College Basketball formed in October, a few weeks after federal prosecutors announced they had charged 10 men — including assistant coaches at Arizona, Auburn, USC and Oklahoma State along with a top Adidas executive — in a fraud and bribery scandal.

The case involves hundreds of thousands of dollars in alleged bribes and kickbacks designed to influence recruits on choosing a school, agent or apparel company. It has entangled schools such as Kansas, North Carolina State, Louisville and Miami, among others, though prosecutors withdrew a criminal complaint in February against one of the defendants.

Among its proposals, Rice's committee had recommended the NCAA restructure its Board of Governors — made up of college presidents or chancellors — to add at least five outside members to bring more independent voices into leadership.

Separately, the Knight Commission wants at least six independent members on the 24-person Division I Board of Directors, also made up of school representatives. It also wants "more stringent" approvals and disclosures for income from apparel companies. That includes prohibiting athletics employees from having a contract contingent on players using the company's products, a right the commission instead reserved for the schools themselves.

The Knight Commission, formed in 1989 to support "the educational mission of college sports," also seeks to have public disclosures of the outside income — both for public and private schools — received by university employees from the apparel companies.

The commission heard from several people during its Monday meeting, including: NCAA chief legal officer Donald Remy, ESPN analyst Jay Bilas, St. Joseph's coach Phil Martelli and Kyia Carter — the mother of Duke one-and-done forward Wendell Carter Jr.

Remy said the NCAA groups are working to have legislation based on the Rice commission's recommendations ready to present in August and adoption in time for next season.

"There were no stakeholders who should not have been put on alert as the commission report was read," Martelli said. "We are not here to rebuild college basketball. We're here to create a new model. And if you're not in, you're out."

Bilas, a frequent NCAA critic, said the Rice commission didn't address the amount of money flowing through the game and a "failed concept of amateurism" that instead should compensate athletes with more than an education.



KARL B. DEBLAKER/AP

Rod Brind'Amour talks with Marcus Kruger during a Hurricanes' game last year. The Hurricanes promoted Brind'Amour, a former team captain, from assistant to head coach on Tuesday.

Briefly

Hurricanes hire Brind'Amour

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes hired former captain and current assistant Rod Brind'Amour as their coach Tuesday, hoping the "greatest leader" in franchise history can end a nine-year playoff drought.

The team also announced that club president Don Waddell will become the full-time general manager after serving as acting GM.

The team scheduled a news conference for Wednesday to discuss the moves.

Waddell said a number of coaching candidates were discussed, but "our conversations with staff and players consistently returned to the same person."

One of the team's most decorated players, Brind'Amour captained the Hurricanes' only Stanley Cup championship team in 2006.

"Rod is the greatest leader in the history of this franchise, and has earned the opportunity to take charge of our locker room," Waddell said in a statement.

The two-time Selke Award winner as the NHL's best defensive forward retired in 2010 and ranks third in club history in assists (299), fourth in points (473) and fifth in games played (694).

He replaces Bill Peters, who opted out of his contract last month following his fourth year and subsequently was hired by the Calgary Flames. He becomes the Hurricanes' third straight

first-time NHL head coach, after Kirk Muller and Peters.

Brind'Amour has been a Carolina assistant since 2011. He spent half his 20-season NHL career with the Hurricanes, leading them to the Stanley Cup finals in 2002 and again four years later.

Cavs won't punish Hood for not entering game

CLEVELAND — A person familiar with the situation says the Cleveland Cavaliers will not fine or suspend forward Rodney Hood for refusing to enter Game 4 against Toronto.

The Athletic first reported that Hood declined coach Tyronn Lue's request to replace LeBron James with 7:38 left and the Cavs leading by 30, angering his teammates and others in the organization. Hood spoke to team officials about the incident Tuesday and will not be disciplined, said the person who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

The person said Hood expressed regret for the incident and "didn't want to be a distraction."

Lopez suspended amid sex assault probe

DENVER — Two-time Olympic taekwondo champion Steven Lopez has been temporarily sus-

pending while the U.S. Center for SafeSport resolves a case against him involving sexual misconduct allegations.

Lopez's suspension Monday comes days after four women filed a lawsuit in federal court accusing U.S. Taekwondo and the U.S. Olympic Committee of sex trafficking. The lawsuit alleges the organizations were long aware that Lopez and his brother were sexual predators but kept sending young women with them to competitions and practices.

Jean Lopez is appealing a pair of violations for sexual misconduct that resulted in a permanent ban; one of the cases involved a minor.

Players union files case on Reid's behalf

The NFL players' union has filed a non-injury grievance on behalf of free agent safety Eric Reid.

The NFLPA cites one team appearing "to have based its decision not to sign a player based on the player's statement that he would challenge the implementation of a club's policy prohibiting demonstration" during the national anthem.

League policy does not prohibit demonstrating during the anthem. Referring to the labor agreement with the league, the union notes that NFL rules supersede any conflicting club rules.

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MLB SCOREBOARD

American League					Monday				
East Division					Nationals 8, Padres 5				
W	L	Pct	GB		Washington	ab	r	h	bi
Boston	25	9	.735	—	Harper	4	0	0	0
Philadelphia	18	16	.526	6½	Tanner	3	3	1	1
Tampa Bay	16	17	.469	9	Rendon	3	4	2	1
Cleveland	19	16	.543	—	M.Adams	4	2	2	5
Minnesota	14	17	.452	1½	Kendrick	1	1	0	0
Detroit	20	17	.412	2	Headley	3	0	1	0
Kansas City	11	23	.324	6	Winters	3	0	1	0
Chicago	23	23	.500	—	M.Joyner	4	0	0	0
West Division					Strzyp	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles	21	13	.618	—	Mo.Srph	4	0	0	0
Houston	19	14	.576	1½	Brzyp	0	0	0	0
Seattle	19	14	.576	1½	C.Trees	4	0	0	0
Oakland	18	15	.545	2½	Difo	2	0	0	0
Texas	14	23	.378	8½	Totals	34	8	8	8

National League					Phillies 11, Giants 0				
East Division					Philadelphia				
W	L	Pct	GB		San Francisco	ab	r	h	bi
Atlanta	18	15	.545	—	Alanco	3	0	0	0
Philadelphia	19	15	.559	½	Montana	4	0	0	0
New York	18	15	.545	½	Morrant	3	0	0	0
Washington	13	21	.382	6½	P.Jhnsn	0	0	0	0
Miami	13	21	.382	6½	Rossey	3	0	0	0
West Division					Hundley	4	0	0	0
St. Louis	20	13	.606	—	S.Baba	1	0	0	0
Milwaukee	18	13	.577	1	Longoria	3	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	16	18	.463	2	B.Crwr	3	0	0	0
Chicago	17	15	.531	2½	Blanton	3	0	0	0
St. Paul	8	29	.213	13	G.Hman	3	0	0	0
West Division					St. Louis	4	0	0	0
Arizona	20	15	.571	—	Sndoval	3	0	0	0
Colorado	20	15	.571	3½	Snellen	3	0	0	0
Houston	18	16	.526	1½	Timms	3	0	0	0
Los Angeles	15	19	.441	8	Totals	35	11	11	11
San Diego	13	23	.361	11	San Francisco	000	000	000	—

Sunday's games					Twins 6, Cardinals 0				
N.Y. Yankees 7, Cleveland 4					Minnesota				
Toronto 2, Tampa Bay 1					St. Louis				
Minnesota 5, Chicago White Sox 3					Mauer				
St. Louis 4, Detroit 2					B.Dzier				
Boston 6, Texas 1					E.Schr3b				
Oakland 2, Baltimore 1					Ersario				
Arizona 3, Houston 1					B.Wison				
L.A. Angels 6, Seattle 2					Kellay				
San Francisco 3, N.Y. Mets 2					R.Fernro				
San Francisco 4, Atlanta 3					L.Merre				
Philadelphia 5, Pittsburgh 4					Magli				
Pittsburgh 9, Milwaukee 0					Totals				
Miami 8, Cincinnati 5					St. Louis				
San Diego 3, L.A. Dodgers 0					Minnosota				
St. Louis 4, Chicago Cubs 13					St. Louis				
Texas 7, Detroit 6					Grossman				
San Francisco 6, San Diego 2					B.Wilson				
Monday's games					H.L. Eason				
St. Louis 4, Cincinnati 0					H.L. Eason				
Houston 16, Oakland 2					H.L. Eason				
Philadelphia 11, San Francisco 0					H.L. Eason				
New York 7, Detroit 6					H.L. Eason				
San Francisco 6, San Diego 2					H.L. Eason				
Tuesday's games					H.L. Eason				
Cincinnati 14, Miami 2					H.L. Eason				
Washington 6, San Diego 2					H.L. Eason				
Chicago 14, Philadelphia 2					H.L. Eason				
Boston at N.Y. Yankees					H.L. Eason				
Kansas City at Baltimore					H.L. Eason				
St. Louis at Cincinnati					H.L. Eason				
Atlanta at Tampa Bay					H.L. Eason				
Cleveland at Milwaukee					H.L. Eason				
Detroit at Texas					H.L. Eason				
Chicago White Sox at L.A. Angels					H.L. Eason				
Houston at Oakland					H.L. Eason				
San Francisco at Philadelphia					H.L. Eason				
N.Y. Mets at Cincinnati					H.L. Eason				
Washington at Chicago					H.L. Eason				
Arizona at L.A. Dodgers					H.L. Eason				
Washington at San Diego					H.L. Eason				
Wednesday's games					H.L. Eason				
Cleveland (Carrasco 4-1) at Milwaukee (Guerra 2-2)					H.L. Eason				
Detroit (Liriano 3-1) at Texas (Colton 1-0)					H.L. Eason				
Pittsburgh (Williams 4-2) at Chicago (White Sox 2-1)					H.L. Eason				
L.A. Angels (Barria 2-1) at Oakland (Menden 2-0)					H.L. Eason				
Houston (Cole 3-1) at Oakland (Menden 2-0)					H.L. Eason				
Pittsburgh (Price 2-4) at N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 4-2)					H.L. Eason				
San Francisco (Skoglund 1-2) at Baltimore (Cashner 1-4)					H.L. Eason				
Seattle (Leblanc 0-4) at Toronto (Garcia 3-2)					H.L. Eason				
Atlanta (Theer 2-1) at Tampa Bay (Vernon 1-0)					H.L. Eason				
N.Y. Mets (Whelan 2-2) at Cincinnati (Pitt 1-0)					H.L. Eason				
Miami (Chen 1-1) at Chicago Cubs (Quintana 3-2)					H.L. Eason				
San Francisco (Stratton 3-2) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 1-2)					H.L. Eason				
Cincinnati (Gonzalez 4-2) at San Diego (Lucchesi 3-2)					H.L. Eason				
Arizona (Corbin 1-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Wood 0-3)					H.L. Eason				
Thursday's games					H.L. Eason				
San Francisco at Philadelphia					H.L. Eason				
Kansas City at Baltimore					H.L. Eason				
St. Louis at N.Y. Yankees					H.L. Eason				
Seattle at Toronto					H.L. Eason				
Cincinnati at Miami					H.L. Eason				
Milwaukee at Colorado					H.L. Eason				
Washington at Arizona					H.L. Eason				
San Francisco at Cincinnati					H.L. Eason				
St. Louis at L.A. Dodgers					H.L. Eason				
Friday's games					H.L. Eason				
June 4-13 Last day of regular season					H.L. Eason				
June 14-19 Wild-card meetings					H.L. Eason				
Dec. 10-13 Winter meetings, Las Vegas					H.L. Eason				

National League					Phillies 11, Giants 0				
East Division					Philadelphia				
W	L	Pct	GB		San Francisco	ab	r	h	bi
Atlanta	18	15	.545	—	Alanco	3	0	0	0
Philadelphia	19	15	.559	½	Montana	4	0	0	0
New York	18	15	.545	½	Morrant	3	0	0	0
Washington	13	21	.382	6½	P.Jhnsn	0	0	0	0
Miami	13	21	.382	6½	Rossey	3	0	0	0
West Division					Hundley	4	0	0	0
St. Louis	20	13	.606	—	S.Baba	1	0	0	0
Milwaukee	18	13	.577	1	Longoria	3	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	16	18	.463	2	B.Crwr	3	0	0	0
Chicago	17	15	.531	2½	Blanton	3	0	0	0
St. Paul	8	29	.213	13	G.Hman	3	0	0	0
West Division					St. Louis	4	0	0	0
Arizona	20	15	.571	—	Sndoval	3	0	0	0
Colorado	20	15	.571	3½	Snellen	3	0	0	0
Houston	18	16	.526	1½	Timms	3	0	0	0
Los Angeles	15	19	.441	8	Totals	35	11	11	11

MLB

Astros' Springer goes 6-for-6 with HR

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — George Springer came up short in three attempts at completing the cycle with a triple. The Astros' leadoff man settled for a spot in the team's record book instead.

Springer went 6-for-6 with a home run to make Houston mark as the Astros routed the Oakland Athletics 16-2 on Monday night.

"I don't even know how to explain it," Springer said. "I'm happy to get six hits in a week, let alone six hits in a game. I'm pretty speechless, to be honest."

Last year's World Series MVP doubled and scored in the first inning, hit a three-run homer in the second and then singled and scored in the fourth. Needing a triple for the cycle, he reached on infield singles in the fifth and seventh before adding a fourth single up the middle in the ninth.

Springer's batting average jumped from .264 to .292. He became the second player in club history to go 6-for-6 and the first to do it in a nine-inning game. Hall of Famer Joe Mauer accomplished the feat in a 12-inning game against the Milwaukee Braves on July 8, 1965.

"It was a remarkable night," Astros

manager A.J. Hinch said. "You don't see that many at-bats and then on top of that, that many hits, in a lot of different ways, different parts of the ballpark. He's obviously seeing the ball really well."

Three-time batting champ Jose Altuve was in awe.

"Six hits, that's so crazy," Altuve said. "How do you get six hits? That was impressive."

Springer was given the ball from his sixth hit.

"I'll save it," he said. "I don't think I'll ever sniff (six hits) again. For me to get six, that means that the guys behind me were productive as well. It was a good night for the team."

Marwin Gonzalez also went deep and matched his career high of five RBIs. Derek Fisher hit his third home run and Max Stassi doubled twice and scored two runs for the Astros.

Houston set season highs for runs and hits (20) in its most lopsided win this season. The Astros beat the A's 11-0 on April 28.

Dallas Keuchel (2-5) yielded one run and five hits over eight innings. The Houston left-hander, who gave up three homers and six runs the last time he faced the A's on April 27, struck out four and walked two.

"I owed them a butt whipping so that

was nice," Keuchel said. "I've been attacking the inside part of the plate with the cutter, the two-seamer and the four-seamer. That's allowed me to put doubt in the hitters' minds."

Jonathan Lucroy had two hits and an RBI for Oakland.

The A's played without outfielder Stephen Piscotty, whose mother died late Sunday night, less than a year after being diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Gretchen Piscotty was diagnosed with ALS in May 2017 when her son was with St. Louis. The Cardinals traded him to Oakland in December in part to allow Piscotty to be closer to his home in the East Bay suburb of Pleasanton during his mother's terminal illness.

Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the fourth when the Astros scored six runs.

Oakland lefty Brett Anderson (0-1) failed to make it out of the fourth in his first start at the Coliseum in an A's uniform since Sept. 22, 2013. Anderson allowed seven earned runs and 10 hits.

"I didn't have any pitches to finish them off," he said. "Nobody should feel comfortable enough in there to get six hits whether or not they're Tony Gwynn with Billy Hamilton's speed, regardless of who's out there."



BEN MAROYT/AP

The Astros' George Springer, right, celebrates with Jose Altuve after hitting a three-run home run off the Athletics' Brett Anderson during the second inning on Monday in Oakland, Calif.

Roundup

Cubs stop five-game slide with win over Marlins

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs broke out of their offensive slump in a big way.

Two powerful swings by Ian Happ played a key role.

Happ homered from both sides of the plate, and Chicago stopped a five-game slide by routing the Miami Marlins 14-2 on Monday night.

The Cubs collected 15 hits after scoring three or fewer runs in 10 of the previous 11 games. Kris Bryant and Javier Baez also connected, and Happ finished with five RBIs.

"It was nice to see Happy get going again," manager Joe Maddon said. "KB had a nice day [and] Javy continues to drive in runs."

Kyle Hendricks (3-2) also provided a lift by pitching eight innings of two-run ball. The Cubs dropped their previous two on game-ending hits in St. Louis, taxing their bullpen.

The only downer for Chicago was an early exit for Baez, who departed in the sixth with right groin tightness. Maddon said Baez was lifted because of the lopsided score and he doesn't believe the injury is a concern.

Miami starter Jarlin Garcia (1-1), who entered with a major league-best 1.09 ERA, was rocked for seven runs and six hits in four innings. The 25-year-old left-hander allowed just two earned runs in 23 innings in his previous four starts.

"I had issues leaving the ball up in the zone when I wanted to go inside," Garcia said. "I left it up, and not only up, I left it in the middle of the plate."



CHRIS LEE, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

Cardinals catcher Carson Kelly receives the throw as the Twins' Eduardo Escobar scores on a double by Robbie Grossman in the sixth inning on Monday in St. Louis. The Twins won 6-0.

Before Monday, the Cubs' last 13 homers had been solo drives. Bryant stopped that streak with a two-run shot in the first.

Baez then made it 5-0 with a three-run drive to center in the third — one pitch after losing his balance on a hard swing and miss.

Happ added a two-run shot in the fourth. Batting from the left side in the seventh, he belted a three-run drive to left against Tyler Clouty.

Bryant finished with three hits and scored three times, and Addison Russell had two hits and two RBIs.

"I think sometimes you just have those nights," Happ said. "No BP today. Everybody got their work done in the cage and just went and played. That's how we grew up playing. It's pretty natural."

Twins 6, Cardinals 0: Fernando Romero struck out nine in six innings in his second straight

scoreless start to begin his major league career, leading visiting Minnesota to its season-high fourth straight win.

The Twins have won 13 of their last 16 games against National League opponents dating to last year.

Mets 7, Reds 6: Jay Bruce hit a two-run homer against his former team, rounding the bases to a familiar "BRUH UCI!" chant, and Adrian Gonzalez connected twice in the Mets' victory.

The Mets hit the road after getting swept during a six-game homestand that included three shutout losses and 11 runs total by New York's offense. Michael Conforto got it going with a lead-off homer against Homer Bailey (0-5), and Bruce had a two-run shot off his former teammate in the third for a 4-0 lead.

Nationals 8, Padres 5: Matt Adams homered in consecutive innings, Trea Turner went deep in his first at-bat at Petco Park and Washington's Stephen Strasburg beat his hometown team again.

Adams hit a towering two-run drive to right off Tyson Ross in the sixth and a three-run shot to right-center in the seventh off Matt Strahm.

Phillies 11, Giants 0: Odubel Herrera homered twice and drove in five runs, helping Zach Eflin and the host Phillies to the runaway win.

Carlos Santana and Cesar Hernandez also connected for Philadelphia, which had dropped six of eight. Santana drove in four runs, and Hernandez had two RBIs.

Rangers 7, Tigers 6: Jurickson Profar hit a tiebreaking RBI triple. Nomar Mazara homered again and the host Rangers beat the Tigers after a strange seventh inning.

Delino DeShields and Shin-Soo Choo both scored from first in the seventh. DeShields reached on a two-out error and then raced around the bases when Choo singled on a grounder that trickled off the outstretched glove of second baseman Dixon Machado. Profar followed with his big hit.

MLB/NBA



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Houston Astros center fielder A.J. Pollock, right, celebrates with relief pitcher Archie Bradley after the final out against the Astros on Sunday. Pollock hit .423 with four home runs, eight RBIs, five runs scored in the week ending May 6. Bradley has a 1.42 ERA, and nine consecutive scoreless innings.

Pollock, pitching propel D-backs to fast start

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press

PHOENIX

Two starting pitchers are hurt. So is the slugging third baseman. The team's best player is in one of his worst slumps. And yet the Arizona Diamondbacks keep winning, taking two of three from the World Series champion Houston Astros over the weekend.

After going 4-3 last week against Houston and the Los Angeles Dodgers—the two teams that played in last year's World Series—Arizona still has the best record in the National League at 23-11, 3½ games ahead of the Colorado Rockies in the NL West.

"I don't think we were intimidated, I don't think we were worried about it," Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said of last week's games. "We just knew if we played our game and did our thing that way that we know we can, that we would be OK. And we embrace that. We love these challenges."

The Diamondbacks, idle Monday before a two-game set with the Dodgers in Los Angeles, still haven't lost a series this season (They split with the Dodgers 2-2).

Daniel Descalso
Diamondbacks player

They have lost two of their five starting pitchers for the season with Tommy John surgery and Robbie Ray for at least a month with a strained right oblique. And Paul Goldschmidt has not been himself, batting .225 with four home runs and 11 RBIs. Looking uncomfortable at the plate, he has struck out 45 times in 110 at-bats. Goldschmidt is hitless in his last 23 at-bats. He went 1-for-25 in the home stand.

Lovullo has steadfastly stood by the big first baseman, saying he's confident he will eventually be his old self, although he did give him the day off Saturday, when Arizona beat Houston 4-3.

The most consistent offense has come from A.J.

Pollock and David Peralta, especially Pollock.

The centerfielder Pollock, who also has made some defensive gems, was named National League player of the month for April and player of the week for the first week of May.

In the week ending May 6, Pollock hit .423 (11-for-26) with four home runs, eight RBIs, five runs scored, a double and a triple.

He drove in the winning run with a two-out bases-loaded single in the ninth inning of Saturday's 4-3 victory and, on Sunday, he tripled in the tying run and scored the go-ahead run.

Pollock is hitting .306 with 10 home runs and 29 RBIs.

Peralta has been the other rock of the offense. Batting in the leadoff spot, he's hitting .295 with six home runs and 19 RBIs.

The rest of the offense, still without injured third baseman Jake Lamb, has been inconsistent. But the pitching has been strong.

The Diamondbacks lead the National League and are second to Houston in the majors with a 3.05 team ERA.

Left-hander Patrick Corbin is 4-0 in seven starts with a 2.15 ERA. Zack Godley is 4-2 with a 3.41 ERA and Zack Greinke 3-2 with a 4.10 ERA that is not indicative of the way he's pitched, especially lately.

The big surprise is Matt Koch. The right-hander brought up from Triple-A Reno to take Walker's place is 2-0 in four starts with a 0.99 ERA. The victories, by the way, were over (pre-injury) Clayton Kershaw and Justin Verlander.

The problem is with the fifth starter, a situation yet to be resolved.

The bullpen leads the majors with a 2.19 ERA.

Archie Bradley has a 1.42 ERA, nine consecutive scoreless innings and 19 strikeouts in 19 innings pitched, usually called on to face the heart of the opponent's order in a close game. Closer Brad Boxberger has a 1.80 ERA and has yet to blow a save in 11 tries.

Things looked bad when Arizona lost its third in a row Friday, but the Diamondbacks rebounded with close wins Saturday and Sunday.

"You lose three in a row, you try not to let it spiral into something bigger," Arizona's do-everything Daniel Descalso said. "That's the mindset that you have. That's what good teams do."

Van Gundy won't return to Pistons

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

DETROIT — After four seasons of mostly mediocre results, the Detroit Pistons are moving on without Stan Van Gundy.

He won't return as president of basketball operations and he isn't staying on as Detroit's coach, either.

Van Gundy held both those roles for four years, and at times the Pistons seemed to be making progress. But they made the playoffs only once during his tenure, in 2016, and the team announced his departure Monday. Owner Tom Gores said it was a difficult decision.

"I am grateful to Stan for everything he's done for the Pistons and for the city of Detroit," Gores said. "He rebuilt the culture of our basketball team, re-instilled a winning attitude and work ethic, and took us to the playoffs two years ago. He went all-in from Day One to positively impact this franchise and this community."

"But over the past two seasons our team has not progressed, and we decided that a change is necessary to regain our momentum," Gores said.

The Pistons went 39-43 this season, missing the playoffs for the third time in four years under Van Gundy. They've made the postseason just once in the past nine seasons, and even a blockbuster trade for Blake Griffin wasn't enough to salvage 2017-18.

The Pistons went 152-176 over the past four seasons under Van Gundy, and his personnel decisions have come under more criticism than his coaching. Detroit hasn't been able to make the most of its draft position, spending first-round picks on Stanley Johnson, Henry Ellenson and Luke Kennard.

This past season, Kennard shot over 40 percent from three-point range, but he was taken one spot ahead of Donovan Mitchell in last year's draft. Mitchell has blossomed into a Rookie of the Year candidate for Utah.

The trade for Griffin was a bold one for the Pistons and left them with limited flexibility. Not only did the team take on Griffin's big

contract, but Detroit also sent a protected first-round draft pick to the Los Angeles Clippers in the deal.

Gores indicated last month that changes would be coming, but it wasn't clear if that might mean a front office shake-up or a coaching change. Now the Pistons are embarking on both.

The team's news release Monday didn't shed much light on the decision-making process of these past few weeks. It did say that Van Gundy wanted to return.

"Stan is a competitor and he wanted to finish the job," Gores said. "He retooled a roster that we think can be very competitive in the East. I know he's disappointed, and that he cares deeply about his players, his staff, this organization and this city. He's also a professional who will make sure this is a seamless transition, and someone I hope will be a friend and adviser to me long after this transition is completed."

Van Gundy declined comment via text message Monday.

Cavaliers coach Tyrone Lue was unaware and stunned to learn of Van Gundy's dismissal. Lue played for Van Gundy on Orlando's Eastern Conference title team in 2009.

"It's just crazy to see that you let a great guy like Stan go," Lue said before the Cavs hosted Toronto in Game 4. "I know he's emotional because he's into the game, he loves the game that much. But as far as X's and O's, understanding different teams, different schemes, his players, he's one of the best as far as knowing the basketball game and what it takes."

When Van Gundy was hired, he talked about how there would be a good connection between the front office and the coaching staff — that much was obvious, since he was going to be part of both. Setups like that aren't unheard of in the NBA — Tom Thibodeau is Minnesota's coach and president of basketball operations — but it's not that easy to make it work.

Atlanta coach Mike Budenholzer had the title of president of basketball operations, but he gave up that position last year. Now he's no longer coaching the Hawks either.



ADAM HUNGER/AP

Stan Van Gundy will not return to the Pistons as coach or president of basketball operations. Detroit owner Tom Gores said in a statement that the team has not progressed over the past two seasons.

NBA PLAYOFFS



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The 76ers' T.J. McConnell goes up for a shot against the Celtics Jaylen Brown, left, and Terry Rozier during the second half of Game 4 of their second-round playoff series, Monday in Philadelphia.

McConnell, 76ers avert elimination

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The chants for "T.J. T.J." grew louder each time T.J. McConnell darted through the lane for an easy basket or buried a three to build an insurmountable lead for the 76ers. He wore a sheepish look as teammates rubbed his head on the bench in appreciation, the big moment due an undrafted guard who plugged a role in the early Process days and morphed into a surprise postseason savior.

McConnell turned an eye-popping start into the save of the season and Darin Saric scored 25 points to help Philadelphia stave off elimination in a 103-92 win over the Boston Celtics in Game 4 on Monday night.

"If I saw a lane, I took it. If I had an open shot, I would try and take it," McConnell said.

Easy enough. Yet the Sixers still face daunting odds headed into Game 5 and trailing 3-1 in the Eastern Conference semifinals: No NBA team has ever won a series down 3-0.

McConnell had a career-high 19 points, seven rebounds and five assists in only his second start of the season and meshed well in the backcourt with Ben Simmons. The crowd chanted his initials each time he touched the ball in the fourth and he proved why he has been so valuable even as bigger stars have sliced his playing time.

He was just what coach Brett Brown needed in a must-win game.

"I can tell you the Philadelphia 76ers spirit is just fine," Brown said.

With NBA teams down 3-0 having lost all 129 series, the Sixers may need more than spirit to pull off this stunner.

Joel Embiid had 15 points and 13 rebounds and Simmons had 19 points and 13 boards.

Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 20 points and Marcus Morris had 17.

The Sixers spent the second half in control in what could be their

last home game of the season.

Embiid was still in the mix in his mask, stirring it up with any Celtic within his wingspan. He chirped at Marcus Morris in the third and the Celtics forward flashed a "3-0" with his hands. McConnell buried a three for a 14-point lead that would soon make that combination obsolete.

The "T.J." chants soon echoed throughout the Wells Fargo Center.

"It was a pretty special moment," McConnell said of the chants. "I think we have the best fans in the NBA. They've been here through the dark times and they've certainly been here on our rise."

So has McConnell. Brown was desperate to spark the Sixers and benched slumping forward Robert Covington (0-for-14 combined in Games 1 and 3) for McConnell.

With a chance to shine, McConnell zipped inside for easy buckets, made the extra pass to keep the offense rolling and made the dive for loose balls.

"How do I help my stars be stars because at the end of the day that's what we need," Brown said. "That's my job."

He turned to McConnell, that's how.

The anticipation of elimination and a 6 p.m. EDT tip sharply cut into attendance and the game had more of an early-season feel until Embiid and Terry Rozier shook everyone up with pushing and shoving late in the first half. Embiid tried to strip the ball from Rozier after the whistle. Rozier tightened his grip and Embiid slapped at the ball again. The 6-foot-7 Rozier shoved the 7-2 Embiid in the chest with his right hand and the two quickly had to be separated.

"He tried to punch me twice. Too bad he's so short he couldn't get to my face," Embiid said.

Rozier and Embiid were hit with T's. Then they each hit three.

Embiid buried one that had the crowd buzzing until Rozier came right back and hit his own.

Cavs sweep Raptors, wait for East finals foe

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Their doubters are dropping off as quickly as the competition.

Only one team has advanced to the conference finals in these NBA playoffs, and it's the same squad that looked vulnerable during a chaotic regular season, beatable in the postseason and was one loss from a possible franchise collapse.

The ending's been postponed. The Cleveland Cavaliers aren't nearly finished.

On Monday night, the Cavs completed their second straight four-game sweep of the Toronto Raptors, the East's top team and the one that was supposedly built to dethrone them, with a 128-93 win in Game 4 that has perhaps changed Cleveland's outlook.

LeBron James, whose future hangs over this city like a looming thunderstorm, scored 29 points with 11 assists and eight rebounds on 12-for-19 shooting — an ordinary performance by his standards — as the Cavs won their 10th straight over the Raptors with one of their most complete games in months.

After all the injuries, the failed Isaiah Thomas experiment, the roster overhaul at the trading deadline and other distractions, the Cavs, who can get some rest while waiting for the Philadelphia-Boston winner, are peaking at the right time.

Their path to the East finals wasn't straight. But they arrived.

"We've had four or five seasons wrapped in one, we know what the narrative has been about our team," said James, who averaged 34 points, 8.3 rebounds and 11.3 assists in the series. "But I can only speak in the moment. To be able to put ourselves in position where we can represent the Eastern Conference in the Finals, that's all you can ask for. So we're excited about being part of the Eastern Conference finals once again and having the opportunity to compete for a championship."

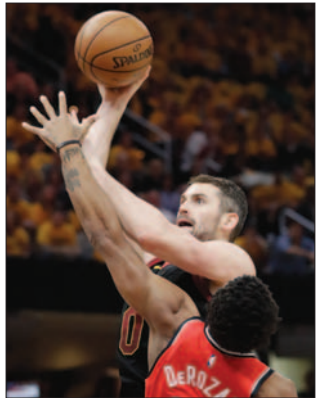
"That is what our goal is."

James has been reluctant to discuss the Cavs' chances to win a title or get back to the Finals for the fourth straight year, but his confidence has grown with each victory.

Kevin Love, who struggled in a seven-game scrap with Indiana in the first round, had another solid game with 23 points. Kyle Korver added 16, J.R. Smith scored 15 on 6-for-6 shooting and point guard George Hill, who was sidelined for three games in the Pacers series, added 12.

The Cavs were balanced and were finally able to take some of the pressure off James, who had seemingly been abandoned by his teammates through much of the postseason.

In fact, things had gotten so bad that "Saturday Night Live" did a skit last weekend that went viral



TONY DELAN/AP

The Cavaliers' Kevin Love shoots over Toronto's DeMar DeRozan in Game 4 on Monday. Love had 22 points as Cleveland swept the series.

on social media called "The Other Cavaliers," a parody that poked fun at Cleveland's supporting cast.

James, though, said his faith never wavered.

"I believe in my teammates so as everyone was burying my teammates alive throughout that first-round series, I just continued to tell them, 'Listen, we can't win without each and every one doing their jobs and being as great as they can be,'" James said. "I continued to preach that so it's impossible for me to lose confidence in our ballclub no matter what the stakes are or where we're down because if I do that — then where are we going to go from a team aspect?"

After winning 59 games in the regular season, the Raptors had the East's top seed and figured that this was their year. James had other plans.

"Everyone had counted Cleveland out," said coach Dwane Casey, whose job could be in jeopardy. "They struggled a little bit. They had the big trade and all that. Everyone thought they were vulnerable but as long as they have him, they have a chance and that's what we were looking at. But 10 days ago we had all the confidence in the world."

Scoreboard

Conference semifinals

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)
Eastern Conference
Cleveland 4, Toronto 0
Cleveland 128, Toronto 93
Cleveland 105, Toronto 103
Cleveland 128, Toronto 93

Western Conference
Boston 3, Philadelphia 1
Boston 108, Philadelphia 103
Boston 101, Philadelphia 98 (OT)
New Orleans 116, Golden State 121

Wednesday at Boston
x-Tuesday at Philadelphia
x-Sunday, May 13 at Boston
x-Monday, May 14 at Houston

Golden State 3, New Orleans 11
Golden State 123, New Orleans 116
Golden State 116, Golden State 121
Golden State 118, New Orleans 92
Tuesday at Golden State
x-Thursday at New Orleans
x-Monday, May 14 at Golden State

Monday

Cavaliers 128, Raptors 93

TORONTO — Miles 5-13 3-13, Anunoby 1-3 0-2, Ibaka 5-8 0-12, Lowry 2-7 0-5, DeRozan 5-11 3-4 13, Powell 2-5 1-2, Siakam 3-4 3-3 9, Nogueira 0-0 0-0, Puelit 0-0 0-0, Valanciunas 7-14 4-6 18, Wright 4-7 2-2 10, Brown 0-1 1-2, VanVleet 2-5 0-5 0-2
CLEVELAND — Smith 6-6 0-15, James 12-19 5-29, Love 8-12 5-6 23, Hill 5-8 2-12, Korver 6-8 0-6, Osman 1-3, Hill 0-1, H. Green 3-7 0-8, Osman 2-5 0-5, Zizic 0-3 0-0, Thompson 2-3 1-1 5, Calderon 0-2 2-2 15, Clarkson 2-5 1-1 5, Totals 50-94 16-20 128.

26 21 25 21 23
Cleveland 30 33 37 28-128
Three-point Goals—Toronto 4-15 (Bak 2-3, VanVleet 1-3, Lowry 1-4, Anunoby 0-1, Wright 0-1, Powell 0-1, Miles 0-2, Cleveland 12-26 (Korver 4-5, Smith 3-3, Love 2-4, Green 2-0, Osman 1-3, Hill 0-1, Clarkson 0-1, James 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 32 (DeRozan, Valanciunas 5), Cleveland 37 (James 8, Assists—Toronto 19 (Lowry 10), Cleveland 29 (James 11, Total Fouls—Toronto 24, Cleveland 21). Ejected—DeRozan, A-20:52 (20:52).

76ers 103, Celtics 92

BOSTON — Tatum 7-16 4-20, Horford 4-6 2-2 10, Baynes 2-7 3-4 9, Rozier 4-11 2-4 11, Smart 5-12 3-4 14, Ojeleye 0-0 0-0, Nader 0-0 0-2, Morris 6-5 2-3 17, Yabusele 0-0 0-0 0, Monroe 1-2 1-1 3, Larkin 0-0 0-0 0, Brown 2-6 2-2 8, Totals 31-75 19-26 92.

PHILADELPHIA — Redick 3-11 0-2 7, Saric 9-17 6-25, Embiid 6-15 1-2 15, Simmons 5-6 17-18 9, McConnell 9-12 0-1 19, Covington 1-7 0-0 3, Ilyasova 2-7 2-3 6, Anderson 0-0 0-0, Bellinelli 10-24 4-4 9, Totals 38-94 20-26 103.
Boston 22 21 22 27-92
Philadelphia 21 26 29 27-103
Three-point Goals—Boston 11-32 (Morris 3-6, Brown 2-5, Baynes 2-6, Tatum 2-6, Smart 1-2, Rozier 1-6, Horford 0-1), Philadelphia 7-26 (Embiid 2-5, McConnell 1-1, Saric 1-3, Bellinelli 1-3, Covington 1-5, Redick 1-7, Ilyasova 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Boston 43 (Horford 10), Philadelphia 35 (Embiid, Simmons 5). Totals 38-94 20-26 103.
Technical—Rozier, Brown, Boston coach Brad Stevens, Embiid, A-20:56 (21:00).

SPORTS



Cavaliers sweep
LeBron, Cleveland oust Raptors
for spot in East finals » **Page 31**

NHL PLAYOFFS



PHOTOS BY GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

Above: Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby celebrates with Evgeny Kuznetsov (92), Jakub Vrana (13), Alex Ovechkin, top center, and Matt Niskanen (2) on Monday after Kuznetsov (left) scored the game-winning goal during overtime against the Penguins in Pittsburgh. Washington won 2-1.

Finally their time

Caps end 20-year drought to play for Eastern Conference championship

BY WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Washington Capitals kept trying to downplay their own forgettable playoff history, the one pockmarked with disappointment and despair. Still, they couldn't run from it.

No one bore the weight more than Alex Ovechkin. All the goals in the world — and the

star forward is at over 600 and counting now — couldn't take the sting away from the endless cycle of postseason runs that ended far too soon.

"It's so hard to move forward some time," Washington coach Barry Trotz said. "It's always thrown in your face everywhere you turn. I know it's thrown in Ovi's face everywhere he turns and he's a great player in this league."

One who is finally headed to a conference

final, with a team few expected to make it this far. The Capitals advanced to the Eastern Conference finals for only the third time since the franchise's inception in 1974 with a 2-1 overtime victory in Game 6 against Pittsburgh on Monday night, a victory secured by Evgeny Kuznetsov's breakout 5:27 into the extra period.

"It feels like something is over," Kuznetsov said. "It's pretty hard to speak."

SEE TIME ON PAGE 26

Springer goes 6-for-6 as Astros top A's » MLB, Page 29

